

Charge cut for 20 councils

Labour anger over Patten poll tax cap

By Philip Webster and Nicholas Wood

TWENTY councils were yesterday ordered to cut their community charges for this year in a marked escalation of the political tensions over the poll tax.

None of the councils named in the Commons by Mr Chris Patten, the Secretary of State for the Environment, is Conservative, provoking Labour claims of a "political fix".

His announcement had been preceded by one of the most bitter clashes seen in the Commons between Mrs Margaret Thatcher and Mr Neil Kinnock, with the Labour leader accusing her of "delighting" in the diversion caused by the riot in central London on Saturday night.

The anger continued when Mr Patten listed the 20 councils, of which 18 are Labour-controlled.

They are: Avon (a hung council), Barnsley, Basildon, Brent, Bristol, Calderdale, Camden, Derbyshire, Doncaster, Greenwich, Hammersmith and Fulham, Haringey, Hillingdon (hung council), Islington, North Tyneside, Rochdale, Rotherham, St Helens, Southwark and Wigan. Lambeth could be added to the list unless it reduces its £305 million budget.

The Association of London Authorities said the list was "neither just nor reasonable", owing more to prejudice than principle, while the Association of Metropolitan Authorities said capping would prove to be the final nail in the poll tax coffin.

Mr Patten told MPs that it would cost £6 to £7 million nationally, and he expected revised budgets to be set by June or July. More than four million people will benefit from savings ranging from £26 in Bristol to £99 in Hammersmith and Fulham.

Mr Bryan Gould, the shadow Secretary of State for the Environment, said the statement was a "final admission of the poll tax's failure, fatally undermining the only virtue claimed for it that it would be simple and improve accountability".

Far fewer councils were capped than had been favoured by many Conservative MPs and some Cabinet ministers, including Mrs Thatcher. Mr Patten said that to be caught in the "capping" net, councils had to be spending at least 12.5 per cent above the Whitehall benchmark for standard spending and £75 per adult above target.

It was the latter condition that spared many authorities. Labour published a list of Tory councils that had exceeded their standard spending assessments by more than 12.5 per cent; and government sources confirmed that Blackpool, Bournemouth and Northampton were all spending above the 12.5 per cent limit, while staying comfortably below the £75 threshold.

Mr Patten said chargepayers were being asked to pay some 30 per cent more than ratepayers last year. Council budgets totalled £35.8 billion, 16 per cent more than last year, and 9 per cent over the £32.8 billion government target.

He said: "It is deplorable that local authorities have chosen to budget at these levels putting an unacceptable burden on local people."

Conservative MPs welcomed Mr Patten's announcement, but Mr Gould said the "rigged" list would be "universally regarded as a political fix". It was a remarkable, if not suspect, achievement to have concocted a list "which miraculously excludes every single Tory authority. The criteria have been carefully, not to say tortuously, selected to produce a predetermined political argument."

He asked why Conservative Windsor and Maidenhead with a poll tax bill of £449 was excluded while Calderdale at only £297 was caught, and why was Conservative Berkshire with an increase of 20.6 per cent left out, while Brent at

1.4 per cent was on the list. Mr Patten counter-attacked by saying that Conservative metropolitan districts were spending an average of £21 per adult over the standard assessment, while Labour ones were spending £94 per adult above. In London, Tory councils were £3 per adult over the assessment; Labour ones were £216 over.

The clash between Mr Kinnock and Mrs Thatcher came after a furious Labour reaction on Monday to what it saw as government attempts to smear the party.

Mr Kinnock said: "It is obvious to anyone who has observed you in recent days that you were rightly horrified by the injuries done to the public, the police and property last Saturday. It is equally clear that you can barely conceal your delight at the diversion which the uproar provided."

Mrs Thatcher retorted that he was talking nonsense. "Yes, I was deeply concerned at the scenes and deeply concerned that this isn't the first time that the police have been injured in upholding the rights of ordinary citizens."

"During the coal dispute, 1,392 police were injured. At Wapping, 572 police were injured."

"Perhaps he will remember before he makes the accusations he does, the scenes outside Grunwick, the Stockport Messenger at Warrington and at Wapping, and the scenes last weekend, which we all condemn."

Mrs Thatcher said she exposed herself more. By dredging through all those past acts, she had demonstrated demonstrated exactly the truth of what he said earlier.

"Those who affect to despise your policies most, give the greatest comfort to you. But she derives that comfort and she encourages further uproar."

Mrs Thatcher retorted: "Nonsense. He is trying far too hard and not succeeding. Does he condemn the 28 to 30 members on his side who seek to break the law? What does he say to the people who throughout the years of the Labour Party haven't always said it was necessary to obey the law?"

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Economic integration 'will take years'

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Editor

ECONOMIC integration in the European Community would take "many years", a White Paper said yesterday. It reaffirmed Britain's "fundamental reservations" about proposals for a European central bank and a common currency.

Its tough language cut across the conciliatory tone struck by two members of the Cabinet in the past four days. The essential message of the paper, *Developments in the European Community, July-December 1989*, is that Britain remains cautious on all but the first steps towards mon-

etary union. It will unsettle EC finance and foreign ministers who have received a more encouraging impression from Mr John Major, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary. At meetings with EC counterparts, they set out to give a positive impression of Britain's approach.

The White Paper says that Britain fully supports the Community's decision that stage one should start in July, but does not mention the key fact that this will involve taking sterling into the Exchange Rate Mechanism.

The operation appeared to be Moscow's retaliation for new checkpoints which Tass said were set up by Lithuania, on roads leading from Vilnius to Kaliningrad in the enclave of the Russian Republic between Lithuania and Poland.

Soviet forces in Vilnius also took over another press building in the city and ordered newspapers supporting Lithuanian independence to stop publishing at printing plants owned by the Communist Party.

Mr Juozas Kuolelis, the secretary of the minority pro-



Hooded prisoners on the Strangeways roof threaten an inmate, stripped to the waist, his hands bound, with a carving fork

Prisoner in riot assault dies

By Quentin Cowdy
Peter Davenport
and Ronald Faux

One of the prisoners assaulted by fellow inmates in the riot at Manchester's Strangeways jail died in hospital last night as the unrest seemed to be drawing to a close.

The Home Office named him as Manchester-born Derek White, aged 46, accused of indecent assault and buggery.

The Home Office confirmed that White was a remand prisoner held in solitary confinement for his own protection under the Rule 43 category. When the violence broke out on Sunday it is known that those held under the rule became the prime targets for attacks from other prisoners.

Prison officers, who had earlier forcibly regained control of a wing, yesterday succeeded in persuading another 20 inmates to surrender. About 40 prisoners are still refusing to give up.

In the afternoon officers stormed E Wing, braving a hail of bricks and coping stones from rooftop rioters.

The two-hour operation began with a police helicopter hovering close above the rioters and sounding a high-pitched klaxon in an attempt to disorientate the protesters. Seven officers were hurt.

Since the riot began in the prison's chapel at midday on Sunday 19 officers and 50 inmates have been hurt.

Early yesterday evening it appeared that the remaining rioters were split into three groups, with the authorities attempting to negotiate with each group. The inmates were behind barricades made up of beds, scaffolding poles and furniture, hurling missiles at the officers below through barrier grills, causing broken limbs and, in at least one case, a punctured lung.

Mr Ivor Sison, branch chairman of the Prison Officers' Association, said he was confident the siege would be settled "in the near future".

He strongly refuted claims made by some inmates that officers were intent on some prisoners "being brought out in body bags".

In a chilling move yesterday hooded prisoners led one inmate, stripped to the waist and with his hands bound, onto the rooftop and held a carving fork to his throat. He did not appear to be hurt.

Later, at the request of prisoners, Mr Michael Unger, the editor of *The Manchester Evening News*, went into the prison to act as an independent observer.

Judges and jail, page 2

Moscow tightens grip on Lithuania

From Michael Biayon
Moscow

MOSCOW yesterday tightened its grip on Lithuania, virtually closing the only border crossing into Poland and occupying another newspaper publishing house. At the same time the Supreme Soviet (Parliament) here overwhelmingly approved a new law on secession.

Border guards yesterday morning began stopping most traffic on the crossing point at Grodno-Lazdijai, 185 miles north-east of Warsaw, and the only direct crossing point on the 80-mile border between the two countries.

The Polish authorities were taken by surprise, and said Soviet guards were turning back Polish tourists who had been streaming into Lithuania since the crossing point was opened last year.

The official Polish news agency said the Soviet border authorities had told their Polish counterparts that the move was temporary and that people returning home would still be allowed to cross.

The operation appeared to be Moscow's retaliation for new checkpoints which Tass said were set up by Lithuania, on roads leading from Vilnius to Kaliningrad in the enclave of the Russian Republic between Lithuania and Poland.

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Mr Juozas Kuolelis, the secretary of the minority pro-

School history bias warning

By David Tytler, Education Editor

The Government's advisers on how history should be taught in the National Curriculum gave a warning yesterday of the "very real danger" of history being taken over as a propaganda weapon.

They reject Mrs Margaret Thatcher's request that there should be a greater emphasis on the learning and testing of historical facts. It "could be seen as a step down the road to an official history in the arbitrary selection of facts".

Their final report adds: "Many people have expressed deep concern that school history will be used as propaganda; that governments of one political hue or another will try to subvert it for the purpose of indoctrination or social engineering."

"There will always be those who seek to impose a particular view of society through an interpretation of history."

The much-delayed publication of the report was engulfed in a political row with Mr Jack Straw, Labour's front bench education spokesman, accus-

ing Mrs Thatcher of "direct political interference".

Mr Straw said: "She tried to pack the working party with people she thought would back her. That did not work and she sent the report back. Now they are hoping the extra consultation will give them time to persuade people into thinking their way."

The report has been with the Government since the end of January while it was considered by Mrs Thatcher. She is believed to have demanded a greater emphasis on the knowledge of historical facts and was anxious that this was tested, a request that has been turned down by the History Working Group as neither desirable nor practical.

The final report says: "Names, dates and places provide only the starting points for understanding. Without understanding, history is reduced to parrot learning and assessment to a parlour memory game."

The group says that knowledge cannot be tested separately but that other attainment targets could be met only if "essential facts" had been properly learnt.

Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, is now asking the School Examinations and Assessment Council to advise him whether this is adequate.

Mr MacGregor shrugged off Mrs Thatcher's involvement. "Nobody should be at all surprised that the Prime Minister is taking a strong interest in a subject as important as this," he said.

Primary school test, page 3
Thatcher line, page 6
Robert Skidelsky, page 14

Israeli spy satellite

In response to threats of a chemical weapons attack by President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, Israel yesterday launched a state-of-the-art spy satellite, raising tension in the Middle East to levels not seen since the 1982 Lebanon war.

Defence experts said the satellite, Ofek-IL, would allow Israel to monitor arms developments in neighbouring Arab countries and respond swiftly.

It will give Israel a vital edge in the arms race in the region, which some observers fear could lead to a new and deadlier Arab-Israeli conflict.

Arab-Israeli tension, page 10
Leading article, page 15

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Bolshoi contract comes in for the high jump

By Michael Biayon in Moscow
and Simon Tait in London

A furious row engulfing the Bolshoi Ballet over its touring agreement with the Entertainment Corporation has left the London-based company "dismayed".

The Soviet cultural establishment is up in arms over reports that the Bolshoi has been "sold" to foreigners, with allegations that the famous company has signed away control of its touring engagements world-wide, even to performances within the Soviet Union.

Leading newspapers have denounced the agreement as capitalist exploitation of Russia's artistic heritage, and dancers are reported to fear that their freedom to dance where and when they want may now be limited by unknown businessmen in London. "This bears almost no relationship at all to the contract, which has been ratified in the last month," said

Mr John Faulkner of the Entertainment Corporation.

"The agreement has nothing to do with performances. It is purely to do with marketing, sponsorship and publishing, and is a three-way agreement. If anything comes up which the Bolshoi don't agree with, it won't happen, and these are sources of income which the Bolshoi did not have before the agreement."

But the row appears to boil down to a confrontation between the old guard within the Bolshoi and the new. The agreement, signed last April by the ballet company, the state impresario Gosconcert, and the Entertainment Corporation, has not been published in the Soviet Union, but it sets up a consortium giving the Corporation broad powers as agents of the Bolshoi overseas, allowing the British firm to license the Bolshoi trade mark, regulate

tour organizers, negotiate contracts and control overseas earnings.

But Mr Yuri Grigorov, the Communist Party secretary of the Bolshoi, the similarity of whose name with that of Yuri Grigorovich, the long-standing artistic director of the company, has led to confusion in the past, denounced the arrangement in a recent interview, saying it would give the Entertainment Corporation 42.5 per cent of the earnings, Gosconcert 15 per cent and the theatre 42.5 per cent. He maintained it would also deprive the Bolshoi of the right to perform even on its former Kremlin second stage.

Within the dance world, the current row is being seen as something of a smokescreen for serious criticism of a lack of new material in the company's repertoire and the ageing dancers. It comes at a time of artistic and managerial crisis at the Bolshoi.



Yuri Grigorovich: Facing an artistic crisis

Macari fails
The FA rejected appeals by Lou Macari, the former West Ham and Swindon manager, and Brian Hillier, the Swindon chairman, over their conviction for contravening FA rules on betting. Page 48

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Judges 'need a lead from top to stop jailing people'

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

LORD Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, should give a lead to judges to cut their use of custody or there will be no impact on prison overcrowding, which is the worst in Europe, a leading lawyer said yesterday.

"We won't get a sentencing reduction which will reduce the prison population without an act of judicial will from the Court of Appeal and the Lord Chief Justice," Mr David Cocks, QC, a past chairman of the Criminal Bar Association, said.

Although the Government's recent White Paper was aimed at more non-custodial penalties, judges would not use those without a lead from the top, he said.

"The cafeteria approach to sentencing - giving a range of options - does not work. You have got to tell judges what options to use." Only such

guidelines, coupled with statutory criteria planned to make judges specify why a custodial sentence was necessary, would work, he added.

Mr Cocks also feared that the White Paper would encourage judges to take an "over-punitive approach" to more serious offences.

"This will encourage judges to give more porridge. But they don't need such encouragement. Sentences are already quite high for offences such as drugs, armed robbery and rape. Fifteen years ago, the minimum sentence for rape was 2½ years, he said. That had doubled.

At present, about 21 per cent of those sentenced to prison have committed offences involving violence - in 1988, 17,186 out of 81,836 - while the vast majority were jailed for "acquisitive offences" such as burglary and

theft, Mr Paul Cavadino of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (Nacro) said.

There was scope for both magistrates and judges to cut their use of prison, he said, although magistrates were sending far fewer people - particularly young offenders and those on remand - to prison than they used to.

In the crown court, however, there was considerable scope for reducing the numbers being sent to prison, without endangering the public, he said.

A recent Home Office study showed that 39 per cent of those charged with theft to the value of less than £200 were given immediate custody, he said.

Mr John Hosking, chairman of the Magistrates' Association, said yesterday that magistrates were jailing

40 per cent fewer criminals than in 1979.

"This is further proof that magistrates' sentencing policy is not the root cause of prison overcrowding; in fact they are continuing to lead the way in reducing it."

He agreed, however, that more could be done to encourage the use of non-custodial penalties. "If there are credible and demanding alternatives - and there are encouraging signs that things are moving in that direction - then more community-based penalties will be used."

These could cut the use of custody across the range of non-serious offences. But one obvious area was fine default. A recent Nacro paper noted that one in five prison sentences passed in England and Wales was for fine default. In 1988, 16,817 defaulters were sent to prison.

Tension still high in several prisons

By David Sapsed

TENSION remained high at several British prisons last night. The most serious unrest, apart from that at Strangeways in Manchester, involved inmates at the maximum security prison at Long Lartin, Worcestershire, but it was defused yesterday after a 13-hour siege.

The 33 prisoners who had put barricades across a landing gave themselves up to prison officers who had earlier foiled an escape attempt. The protest was believed to have been a diversion to help nine prisoners attempt to scale a prison wall.

The Home Office said that Mr Alan Rayfield, prison governor, would be conducting an inquiry.

Two inmates at Bedford prison staged their own protest by climbing on top of a wire cage surrounding a walkway. The protest, which started overnight, was described by officials as "passive."

Opposite Strangeways prison, an inmate's brother staged his own rooftop demonstration to show support for the men still occupying the prison.

Mr Terry Gould, aged 38, who said he had witnessed riots at Hull and Wakefield when he was a prisoner, said the Strangeways rioters feared they would be beaten by prison officers if they gave themselves up.

Yesterday, Armley jail in Leeds was more than 100 per cent overcrowded (Peter Davenport writes).

Armley opened in 1847, 21 years before Strangeways. They share problems created by seeking to deal with offenders more sympathetically in surroundings built when penal traditions were vastly different from today.

Yesterday, 1,307 prisoners were locked up in the four wings and reception area at Armley, including 71 transferred from Manchester. Mr David Sayer, the chairman of the Prison Officers' Association at Armley, said he and his 270 members were "walking on eggshells".

Armley is thought to be the most overcrowded prison in Britain. In January figures produced by the Home Office showed that it then had 1,180 inmates when its complement should have been 627, making it 88 per cent overcrowded.

Staff shortages at Wandsworth jail in London are making a "sparse regime" for inmates even worse. Mrs Margaret Wall, vice-chairman of the prison's board of visitors said yesterday (Quentin Cowdry writes).

A main theme of the watchdog's 1989-90 report, on the south London jail, was the blight the shortages were casting on inmates who were already suffering overcrowding, she said.

Officials saw no hint of riot in improved regime

By Ruth Gledhill

OLD and crumbling buildings at Strangeways prison were strongly criticized in a Board of Visitors' report published last night.

It called for urgent improvements to facilities and accommodation, but contained no hint of impending trouble, and was even optimistic about the effect of recent improvements to the prison regime.

The annual report said Strangeways had not changed in appearance in 120 years, and continued "to lag far behind other Victorian prisons in the country. Once again, Manchester is required to cope with its old and crumbling buildings."

Referring to an aborted redevelopment scheme, the report added: "The carrot which was dangled in 1987 has now been snatched away. Perhaps it may be replaced by a stick of carrots."

"The board considers that a definite redevelopment programme is required to update facilities and accommodation at Manchester."

The visitors were, however, "pleased to report" that numbers of inmates had remained more constant than in the previous year and "as a result, some of the difficulties highlighted in last year's report have been addressed and many improvements in the regime have been made."

Such improvements included access to the main

prison library once each week for category A prisoners; better supplies of kit and clothing; the introduction of a choice of menu on five instead of two days a week; a scheme to enable some inmates to eat at tables outside their cells, and new showers for kitchen staff.

Another workshop had recently opened in the former hospital ward and individual tuition had been increased with work being completed in cells.

Some units of "integral sanitation" have been installed and the visitors said they were looking forward to the day "when slopping out will no longer be necessary."

However, the board criticized the new hospital, in particular for having bars inside the windows which had been modified, but still needed replacing.

It also refers to "a disturbing number of attempted suicides" during the year, but the 20 visitors saw no hint of an impending riot.

Mrs Mary Stewart, deputy chairman of the Strangeways board, said: "There really had been no definite signs of serious unrest. In recent weeks we have had no complaints against officers. There were, as always, people with grievances, but we had no feeling that the place was about to blow."

She said any complaints, were about food, location and

prison visits, as is normal.

The situation was so quiet that the chairman of the board was abroad on holiday, she said.

Mrs Stewart and eight other visitors have been inside the prison round the clock to talk to inmates as they abandon their protest.

"It is cold, wet and messy. It is a shambles. All our records and everything have been burnt."

"I have been in the remand prison and it is completely derelict. The basic structure is sound, but they have burned and stripped the interior. It is devastated."

The hospital, which is criticized in the report, is still intact.

Nine of the visitors were staying away because they would be needed for adjudication in any dispute between the prison staff and inmates that emerges.

"The Board of Visitors and the chaplain were asked to be inside the prison as the inmates come out, to serve as a safeguard."

"A lot of the prisoners are only frightened kids. They have been swept along and once it started they were frightened to come out. They have been coming out in ones or twos."

"We have seen one or two who have gone to the hospital in the prison, such as a diabetic who had not taken his insulin."

She does not believe the riot had been planned in detail. "I think this was a one-off. I think it is something that suddenly erupted, as was the riot in London on Saturday."

She said the staff were in good spirits, in spite of being faced with almost total wreckage of what is for many their lives' work.

"It is freezing cold in there. There is not a window intact and there is no heat. They are shipping in hot food from outside for the officers because there is just nothing."

"But there is a wonderful spirit among the people who are coping with it. Some of them are seeing their lives' work going up in flames. Yet those like ourselves, the visitors, are being looked after superbly and being protected in what for them must be very difficult conditions."

"We really are all upset that something we worked for for years and years has just gone. I would not have believed this would have happened if I had not seen it."

In spite of the devastation, she did not feel sorrowful as much as angry.

"I just feel so angry that we tried to do our best and the whole issue has gone up in smoke. I feel you just cannot help some people."

They cannot guess where we will go from here. We just want to get the remaining prisoners out without anyone being seriously hurt."

Cardboard City mealtime

ALISTAIR GRANT



A down-and-out woman in London's "Cardboard City" sharing a meal with her pet yesterday as television presenter Esther Rantzen visited the homeless to launch an appeal to raise £500,000 which will culminate in National Sleep Out Week on June 4.

After talking to a 23-year-old mother-of-three in the entrance to a shelter made of broken crates, Miss Rantzen said: "It's going

to take a lot of different kinds of help to give them what they all want - a home, a lifestyle, hope for the future."

Long-term residents of the cardboard homes at the Bulbair, Waterloo, said the number of homeless had grown in recent years. "At one time there used to be only six or seven of us," Paddy, aged 21, said. "Now there are 200 and there will be more in the summer."

Midnight deadline for Three Graces

By Sarah Jane Checkland
Art Market Correspondent

MR NICHOLAS Ridley, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, has until midnight tonight to consider the future of Canova's "The Three Graces", and the British art export process.

His extended export ban gave museums a chance to match the £7.6 million the Getty Museum in California is prepared to pay for the sculpture. No British museum has that amount available. The Victoria and Albert Museum raised £330,000 from an appeal while the National Gallery of Scotland pledged £1 million.

Export rules have been turned upside down by Mr Ridley's initiative. He is prepared to "take account of an offer from any source, whether public or private" to buy the Canova work and is considering two proposals.

One from Lord Rothschild, has offered to buy the work and set it against a tax bill but this could set a difficult precedent. The other option is an offer by Mr David Barclay and Mr Frederick Barclay, two Scottish entrepreneurs, to buy the work.

Meanwhile, there is speculation over the destiny of a number of works under export ban which are available for purchase by private individuals. The Dancing Faun by Adrien de Vries, the Mannerist sculptor, fetched £6.8 million last December, a world record for a sculpture at auction. It is now valued at £7.5 million and is under a two-month ban, expiring on May 8. No museum plans a bid.

Fight for shorter week stepped up

By Tim Jones, Employment Affairs Correspondent

UNION leaders in the engineering industry decided yesterday to step up their campaign for a reduced working week for thousands of their white-collar members.

They will be pressing for a half-hour reduction for those on 37.5 hours plus a 3.9 per cent increase in pay.

For those already on 37 hours, the unions will be demanding a 5.2 per cent increase. The unions say those payments should be separate

from normal wage increases to "maintain a fair relationship between grades".

The move is part of the wider campaign by the unions to achieve a 37-hour week throughout the industry.

Mr Roger Lyons, assistant general secretary of the Manufacturing, Science and Finance union, said: "The ultimate objective is to win a 35-hour week and this we shall do. But some companies are refusing to go below 37 hours so we are telling them that instead they will have to make cash payments."

Business leaders taking control of job training schemes previously run by the Government issued a warning yesterday that there was a "desperate need to improve workers' skills" (David Young writes).

The first 10 of the new business-led Training and Enterprise Councils (TECs) have formally signed their contracts with the Department of Employment 13 months after the concept was announced by the Prime Minister. The inauguration of the scheme has come two years ahead of schedule.

Mr Tony Garland, chairman of the Calderdale and Kirkstall TEC, said Britain desperately needed to catch up with the rest of the developed world in terms of training. "We want to provide better quality training and more of it."

Mr Michael Howard, Secretary of State for Employment, said the new TECs would more effectively and efficiently run national training programmes tailored to local needs. "They will bring new thinking to skill enhancement throughout industry and commerce."

Bazoft did not suffer, inquest told

By Lin Jenkins

MR FARZAD Bazoft, the British-based journalist executed in Iraq as a spy, had not been physically maltreated before he was hanged, an inquest in London was told yesterday.

A post-mortem examination in London disclosed bruises and abrasions on his neck "entirely consistent with movement of the rope and tightening at the time of suspension," Dr Richard Shepherd, a pathologist, said.

Grazes on his wrists having been tied behind him and there was "no evidence of other violence or trauma". Dr Shepherd said there was no significant bleeding, nor traces of drugs or alcohol in the body.

Dr Douglas Chambers, the St Pancras coroner, told the jury: "There is only one verdict open to you, and that is execution of a sentence of death."

Doorman cleared of killing policeman

A MAN charged with killing a policeman keeping watch on an illegal drinking house walked free from court yesterday after the prosecution offered no evidence.

Constable Tony Salt, aged 30, died of a neck injury said probably to have been caused by a blow with a hand in Bordesley Green, Birmingham, last April.

The doorman at the back of the aquatics shop where an illegal drinks party was being held was charged with manslaughter; but yesterday Mr Anthony Palmer, QC, told Birmingham Crown Court that the prosecution would offer no evidence against Anthony Francis, aged 26, of New Oscott, Birmingham.

Mr Justice Hadden awarded costs to the defence.

Police lobby

A delegation of chief constables led by Mr John Dellow, of the Metropolitan Police, yesterday lobbied the Home Secretary, Mr David Waddington, to argue against new budgeting controls which police claim will affect spending on vehicles and equipment severely.

Lendl damages

Ivan Lendl, the tennis player, won "substantial" libel damages in the High Court yesterday over allegations in *Today* newspaper in April last year of an affair with Miss Pamela Bordes. The allegations had "gravely affected and hurt him both personally and professionally".

Paper chase

The Speaker of the House of Commons, Mr Bernard Weatherill, yesterday ordered an investigation into claims that copies of the left-wing paper, *Socialist Worker*, were being sold within Parliament to people entering the Commons committee rooms.

Three remanded

Three teenagers said to have caused damage worth £1.5 million to luxury cars at a storage depot in Southall, west London, on New Year's Eve were sent for trial at Isleworth Crown Court by Ealing magistrates.

Wind park plan

Mr Peter Edwards, a farmer, has been granted planning permission to build Britain's first privately owned wind park at Delabole, Cornwall, to provide electricity for 2,300 homes.

Crash death

A motorist was killed when the window of an oncoming coach blew out, showering his car with glass at Oakley, Hampshire. The car careered out of control and hit a tree.

Sent for trial

Of Tai Ngai, aged 32, of Basildon, Essex, was committed to stand trial at Chelmsford Crown Court by magistrates at Billericay, charged with murdering her four children.

Chess lead lost

David Norwood, the 21-year-old grandmaster, forfeited the lead in the Oakham school junior chess tournament, losing to the Czech player Pavel Blatny. At the Edinburgh Masters tournament Jonathan Parker, aged 13, tied for first prize with Douglas Bryson, a grandmaster.

CORRECTION

Our report of February 26 suggested that Mr Craig Brewin, a Labour councillor at Haringey, had participated and voted in a poll tax debate to secure a personal financial interest which he had previously failed to disclose. We accept and are glad to make it clear that, contrary to our report, Mr Brewin had no financial interest whatsoever in the outcome of the debate. We apologise to him for any embarrassment we may have caused him.

Systematic planning of transport links 'is vital for tunnel'

By Michael Dynes
Transport Correspondent

Distorted regional development, chronic traffic congestion and unsustainable development pressures will accompany the Channel tunnel unless an integrated transport plan is formulated, the Government is warned in a report published today.

Dismissing the official approach to transport infrastructure development, the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) says the Channel tunnel provides "the best reason for believing in strategic planning this country has ever witnessed".

Its report says that in the absence of central planning the project has "hurled from one calamity to another" and predicts that "the scheme might yet end up as a large

hole in the ground with no links".

In his introduction to the report, Mr Robin Thompson, president of the institute, says: "We cannot expect market forces alone to provide the necessary strategic planning; by definition they consist of self-contained interests with limited objectives."

He added: "No one is saying we should adopt rigid master-planning. What is patently needed is a combination of clear national and regional planning objectives and a flexible but coherent form of planned management of every aspect of the Channel tunnel scheme."

The report, written by Mr David Summons, an independent transport consultant, says the Channel tunnel will have a profound effect on

regional development, requiring the systematic planning of transport links, if a South-east-only oriented scheme is to be avoided.

This must entail guaranteed provision of passenger and freight through services to and from the regions, along with the inter-capital trains between London, Paris and Brussels and the drive-on shuttle services between the Channel tunnel terminals.

British Rail's proposals, however, for through services and its accompanying statement that as BR is not responsible for promoting regional development all such

services will have to be profitable, could result in the regions being deprived of any economic benefit, the report says.

Growing anxiety over road access to the tunnel arises from the immediate road system "but about the problems at a distance - in particular,

the fact that the link from the M20 to the rest of the motorway network is via the heavily overloaded London Orbital Motorway", the report says.

"The fear of the road haulage industry is that the benefits of the tunnel may be lost because of road traffic delays around London. A further issue is the lack of a direct high-standard link west along the south coast allowing traffic to reach the tunnel without having to use the M25."

While Mr Paul Chammon, the former Secretary of State for Transport, doubted spending on the national road-building programme, many observers, including the Confederation of British Industry, have given a warning that without an outer London orbital and a south coast motorway, congestion can

only increase. While France has devoted considerable effort to providing access to the tunnel, including links beyond Paris, the absence of such planning in the United Kingdom and the insistence on leaving such steps to the private sector could prove disastrous, the report concluded.

Mr Alastair Morton, the chief executive of Eurotunnel, yesterday announced that the expected breakthrough on the marine service tunnel was on schedule after a further record-breaking month of progress by British and French tunnel-boring machines.

Impact of the Channel Tunnel on the Regions (The Royal Town Planning Institute, 26 Portland Place, London W1, £10).



Mr Chammon: Doubled spending on road building

Jenkins foresees end of 'medieval' church-state link

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Editor

THE legal link between the state and the Church of England was a vestigial remnant left over from the Middle Ages — a kind of Gilbert and Sullivan performance — that must go, the Bishop of Durham said yesterday.

The Right Rev David Jenkins, whose interpretations of the Resurrection and Virgin Birth have made him the epitome of the "turbulent priest" of the Thatcher years, made his attack in *The House Magazine*, the newspaper for those who work at the Houses of Parliament.

Although a member of the House of Lords, the automatic presence of Church of England bishops in the upper house is one of the features of the church and state relationship that he calls in question.

The idea of an "Established Church" spoke of past history rather than present realities, he wrote. It was a survival of the period called Christendom, when monarchs were anointed as a sign that all authority came from God. Church and state worked together to care for the *populus Christianus*.

"The coronation of an English monarch — who is also

King or Queen of the United Kingdom and 'other realms and territories' — is full of echoes and remembrances of this faith and vision in its medieval European form."

Though the practice never quite lived up to it, "there was a powerful and significant vision and faith involved."

However, such "medieval forms of faith," are simply not appropriate for us today, Bishop Jenkins states. Followers of other religions, Christian sympathizers who did not belong to any church, and people of goodwill who did not believe in God "must all find the vestigial remnants of the Establishment of the Church of England simply baffling, or actually offensive, or a kind of Gilbert and Sullivan performance which can, on occasion, go down well on television."

"In any case, from a Christian point of view, being an Established Church must increasingly and seriously obscure what the Gospel of Jesus Christ is about."

Sooner or later the link between church and state must go, he asserts. "The people of England are not a *populus*

Christianus and the Church of England is only a part of that one Catholic Church of all who worship God in the name of Jesus Christ."

In practical terms, steps towards disestablishment were likely to coincide with the reform of the House of Lords and moves towards closer collaboration between all the churches in England.

Then the question would arise whether the people of Britain still wanted "representatives of spiritual values, of transcendental possibilities, of the questioning of received practices and ideas in the name of a 'More' which speaks at least of a transcendental humanity, if not of a transcendental God," in their legislative assembly. There might be a "continuing and appropriate place" for such representatives, he states.

The universal significance of God and Jesus Christ was, however, not appropriately declared or pursued through an over-identification with a secular or pluralistic state. Christians ought to be more concerned with responsible criticism of the powers-that-be than with identifying with them.

Security scare hiccup for state visit



Vigil in vain: The Prince and Princess of Wales await the President of India's train at Victoria station, London

By Alan Hamilton

PRESIDENT Venkataraman of India suffered an inauspicious start to his three-day state visit to Britain yesterday when his planned train journey from Gatwick airport to Victoria station, and subsequent formal carriage procession to Buckingham Palace, were cancelled because of a security scare.

Minutes before the President's aircraft landed, a Sussex police officer spotted a suspicious blue holdall by the track near the end of the Gatwick station platform, where a special train was waiting to take the President and his entourage to a formal welcome by the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh, the Prince and Princess of Wales, and the Prime Minister, at Victoria.

Gatwick station, part of the adjoining airport terminal, and the A23, were

evacuated and sealed off for 45 minutes. When the President landed, to be greeted by the Duke and Duchess of Kent on the tarmac, he inspected a guard of honour and was immediately taken direct to Buckingham Palace by road, accompanied by the Duke and Duchess.

Meanwhile, police blew up the holdall but said later that it was only an innocent piece of discarded luggage. Victoria station, which had been decked out for the occasion, became the scene of a non-event. The Prince and Princess of Wales, who arrived in good time, hung about with nothing to do. Mrs Thatcher arrived, and quickly went away when told what had happened. The Queen and the Duke, however, apparently enjoying better communications, were stopped just as they were preparing to leave the palace for Victoria. President Venkataraman, his wife and

two daughters, arrived at Buckingham Palace at 1.15, 15 minutes behind their original schedule, to be greeted by the Queen and the Duke, and by the Prince and Princess of Wales, who had since abandoned their vigil at Victoria.

The President inspected another guard of honour in place of the one waiting for him at Victoria, and went in to lunch with the Queen. He will stay at the palace until his state visit, the first by an Indian president since 1963, ends on Friday.

Mrs Thatcher, who had left Victoria station for another engagement, eventually met the President at a state banquet at the palace last night.

The Department of the Environment, whose responsibilities reach from poll tax to bunting, said last night that it had cost £85,000 to provide decoration and crowd barriers for the route that the President never travelled.

Britons eat less meat says survey

By Michael Hornsby
Agriculture Correspondent

ABOUT 10 per cent of Britons are either vegetarians or go out of their way to avoid eating red meat, mainly for health reasons, according to a survey released today.

Nearly 2,100,000 people, or 3.7 per cent of the population, are total vegetarians, the survey suggests, and another 3,500,000 (6.3 per cent) seldom eat beef, pork or lamb.

Forty-three out of every 100 people claim to be "eating less meat" than they did last year. In this group four out of 10 say they have cut back on meat-eating on health grounds.

The survey was carried out last January by Gallup for the Realest Company, which specializes in vegetarian foods. Surveys have been conducted annually since 1984.

"The trend clearly shows that the number of vegetarians is growing and that health and cost are the two main reasons cited by those who have stopped eating meat," Mr Gregory Sams, the founder of the company, said yesterday. "In the first survey we conducted, only 2.1 per cent said they were vegetarian."

The biggest increase is in the proportion of those who say they avoid but do not totally abstain from red meat, which has risen from 1.9 per cent of the population in 1984 to 6.3 per cent this year.

People at the wealthier end of the social spectrum are more likely to be pure vegetarians and to give moral reasons for giving up meat. As might be expected, the less well-off most often give the need to cut costs as their motivation.

These findings are difficult to reconcile with meat consumption figures collated by the Meat and Livestock Commission at Milton Keynes. These estimate consumption of beef, lamb and pork at 39.7 kilograms a head last year, compared to 37.8 kg in 1984.

Leading article, page 15

Primary school tests 'no threat to lesson time'

By Douglas Broom, Education Reporter

CLAIMS that primary school teachers will be swamped by paperwork generated by National Curriculum tests were rejected yesterday by Mr Philip Halsey, chairman of the School Examinations and Assessment Council.

He said suggestions by teachers' unions that staff would be forced to spend as much time administering tests as they did teaching were based on a perverse desire to "imagine the unworkable".

Standard assessment tasks (SATs) will be used to measure the performance of all

state school pupils in England and Wales at the ages of seven, 11, and 14.

Pilot SATs for seven-year-olds in the core subjects — English, mathematics and science — will be taken next month by 23,000 pupils aged seven at 641 primary schools in England and Wales.

Sample papers from the three consortia commissioned to draw up pilot SATs, at a cost of £6.1 million, were released yesterday.

Mr Halsey said: "We are trying to find things that will work and will keep the workload on pupils and teachers down to a reasonable level."

The National Foundation for Educational Research heads a consortium which proposes a system of standard projects which would be followed by a class of seven-year-olds for half of a school term.

All assessment would be done by teachers in class time by ticking boxes on a form to mark achievement.

The Consortium for Assessment and Testing in Schools has a similar scheme in which teachers would colour squares on a form in class which could then be read by computer.

Its proposals, however, involve teaching different tasks to individual pupils to match their ability.

The most complex scheme disclosed yesterday was that by the STAIR consortium, led by the University of Manchester, which uses 450 separate SATs covering the three core subjects.

Teachers will have to draw up a detailed report on each pupil for submission to the consortium which then issues a SATs "menu" for each pupil based on obvious weaknesses.

Mr Tom Christie, head of the consortium, said that writing the initial report could take up to nine hours for a class of 30 pupils.

He rejected suggestions that his plan was over-complex and would waste teaching time.

History Curriculum, page 6

Ex-hostess 'tried to hitchhike'

THE Illingworth conspiracy trial was told yesterday that the former society hostess worried her family by wandering into the road trying to hitch lift.

Marcus Wilberforce, Lady Illingworth's nephew, told Birmingham Crown Court he had brought the confused elderly woman back to the house after seeing her trying to hitch a lift. He told police "it used to worry us because if she had been picked up by some stranger on the road it could have had horrifying consequences."

Mr Wilberforce told the court his aunt had been "perfectly lucid" when she moved to the family home in Docklow, Hereford and Worcester in February 1984.

However, she soon began to have trouble remembering.

Baron Michael de Stempel, aged 60, Marcus Wilberforce, aged 28, and Sophia Wilberforce, aged 27, all deny conspiring to steal Lady Illingworth's £500,000 fortune. Baroness Susan de Stempel has pleaded guilty to five charges of theft and two charges of forgery.

The trial continues today.

Ten years for £9m drugs gang leader

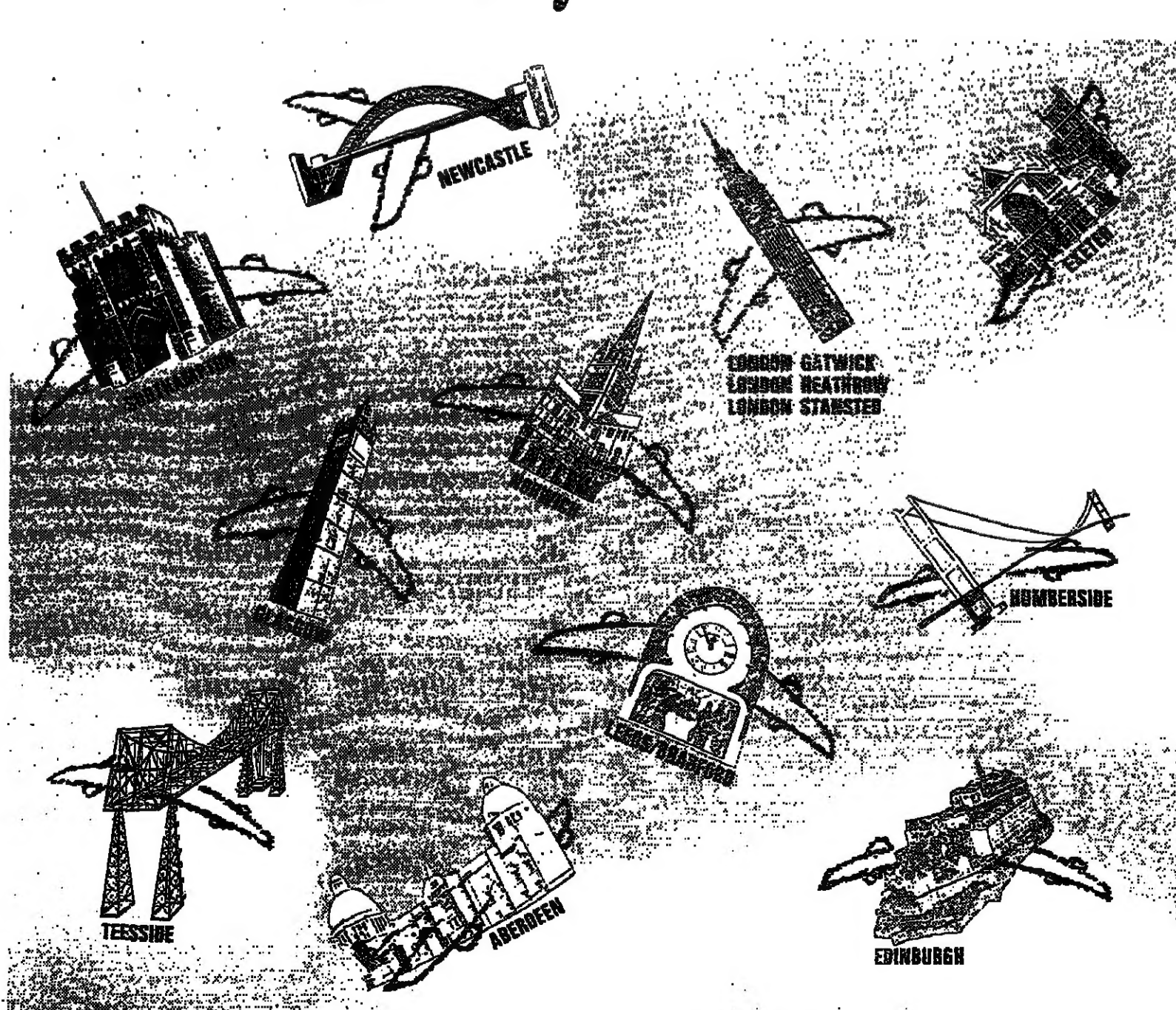
THE LEADER of the gang which smuggled £9 million of cannabis into Britain hidden in sausage skins was jailed yesterday for 10 years.

Etienne Patrick Albert van Hove, aged 41, from The Netherlands, was last month found guilty at Southwark Crown Court of two charges of conspiracy to import cannabis.

David Sanctuary, aged 51, of Greggswood Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, was also jailed for 10 years.

Judge Mona Singh, QC, ordered their assets confiscated. The cannabis resin was concealed in barrels declared as containing sausage skins and seized by Customs in Operation Braun.

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AirUK

Where business takes off

Weather blamed as flight take-off delays total 43pc

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

THE 95 per cent of businessmen for whom punctuality is the top priority when choosing an airline will find little comfort in statistics which disclose that only just over half of the flights from British airports left within 15 minutes of their scheduled time during December.

The Civil Aviation Authority, which compiles the statistics on a regular basis, blames fog and general bad weather for 43 per cent of 50,000 flights monitored being at least 15 minutes late on departure.

The average length of delays rose from 18 minutes in the same month a year earlier to 28 minutes.

Travellers to America were the worst affected with average delays of an hour while domestic passengers were delayed by an average of 18 minutes.

Such problems are the bane of virtually all business travellers' lives, according to a

survey by ABC World Airways Guide. It shows that free champagne, fine food, wider seats and expensive gimmicks aimed at convincing the regular flyers to choose one airline in preference to another count for nothing compared to punctuality.

Of the businessmen questioned, 95 per cent said departure times were a major factor in choosing which airline to fly with, although 79 per cent admitted that the airline itself was important.

With continuing problems of airport and air traffic control congestion there is seemingly little chance of the figures improving despite the airlines' best efforts.

British Airways said: "Punctuality is one of our top service priorities. That is why, over the past year, we have spent £11 million in taking extra steps to combat air traffic congestion to improve our departure records."

Life may be getting hard for

the international business executive, but it is becoming desperate for the company which has to underwrite his travel expenses (Tim Jones writes).

The latest league table of how much money high-powered salesmen will need abroad indicates that Scandinavia should be avoided at all costs.

Oslo, Copenhagen and Stockholm head the list compiled by Employment Conditions Abroad of the most expensive places.

In Oslo, to sleep in a four-star hotel costs £102. If the executive has a couple of drinks, a meal and a newspaper, his shirt laundered and two taxi trips, the charge rises to £208.

By comparison, London, eighth in the league, is cheap at £171. The best value appears to be offered in Johannesburg, where the average price of a first-class hotel is £34 a night.

Angry capped councils consider legal action

By Ray Clancy

THE 20 local authorities capped yesterday reacted with shock and anger and many accused the Government of singling out Labour councils.

They immediately agreed to meet in London tomorrow to consider a joint strategy against the cuts.

Some councils — including Haringey, Greenwich, Islington, Basildon, Bristol and Camden — had been reported as being prime candidates for capping, but for others such as Hillingdon, the announcement came as a total surprise.

It is predicted some authorities will need to make massive cuts in services, and job losses in areas of high unemployment are likely.

Town halls face chaos as councils spend between £500,000 and £1 million on re-billing, and cash flow problems are inevitable.

"We find it a barely credible decision. It is a distortion of the truth to call Wigan an overspending council, our budget is only 6 per cent more than last year," a statement from the authority said.

Councillors in Hammersmith and Fulham threatened to take the Government to court to protect local services. "Not content with foisting an unpopular tax on us and local

people, the Government now wants to force us to axe millions of pounds from our services. We will have to think very seriously about court action including the European courts," Mr Michael Goodman, the council leader, said.

Derbyshire County Council said lawyers would examine the capping procedure and consider legal action. Mr David Bookbinder, the council leader, said the capping was "blatantly political" and predicted that 4,400 jobs would come under threat, as would services.

Bristol City Council also indicated possible legal action. Mr Barry Taylor said it would appeal and probably seek a judicial review.

Mr Tony Little, leader of the Liberal Democrats in Hillingdon, which is a hung council, described the decision as "staggering." "The Government has used all its skill to fiddle the figures so that no Tory council had its poll tax capped," he said.

However, Mr Andrew Boff, leader of the Conservatives, welcomed the news because his group has said it will reduce the poll tax from £367 to £290 if it gains control in May. "The Government has made the right decision. The only disappointment is that we will now have to make 20 refunds to the 180,000 people

on our register. We have estimated that this will cost about £100,000 each time in administration costs, equivalent to 60p each time on the poll tax," he said.

Rotherham borough council was shocked to find itself capped. A spokesman predicted that school nurseries, luncheon clubs and two swimming pools might have to close, and there could be reductions on other services such as highways maintenance to bring down the £334 charge.

North Tyneside described the decision as "political vindictiveness." Mr Stephen Byers, deputy leader, said: "There is no way that we can be regarded as a profligate local authority."

Mr Joe Tolan, leader of Calderdale borough council said: "We are disgusted and taken aback. The fact that there is no Conservative authority on the list makes it clear that this is a deliberate political attack by the Government. We shall be challenging the criteria that the Secretary of State has used in making his assessment."

Brent council said it was surprised by the decision. Its original poll tax figure of £498 was only 4 per cent above the government target. "It is grossly unfair. There is no fat left to cut." A meeting is being held today to "suggest ways in

COMMUNITY CHARGE CAPPING 1990/91

The table below shows the authorities which the Secretary of State designated for community charge capping. The budget reduction he has imposed, the proposed charge and the reduction which capping will produce.

| | Budget £m | Reduction £m | Charge set £ | Reduction per adult £ |
|--------------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Avon | 532.7 | 26.6 | (-) | 37 |
| Barnsley | 142.0 | 10.0 | 350 | 59 |
| Basildon | 27.9 | 4.2 | 476 | 35 |
| Brent | 248.3 | 7.6 | 498 | 39 |
| Bristol | 54.2 | 7.6 | 490 | 32 |
| Calderdale | 132.9 | 7.5 | 297 | 82 |
| Camden | 181.4 | 4.4 | 534 | 24 |
| Derbyshire | 560.6 | 40.0 | (-) | 53 |
| Doncaster | 190.1 | 11.6 | 338 | 56 |
| Greenwich | 213.1 | 10.0 | 408 | 66 |
| Hammersmith/Fulham | 167.5 | 11.7 | 424 | 71 |
| Haringey | 216.5 | 10.0 | 573 | 99 |
| Hillingdon | 151.0 | 9.3 | 367 | 53 |
| Islington | 189.5 | 3.7 | 495 | 30 |
| North Tyneside | 129.7 | 6.8 | 389 | 46 |
| Rochdale | 152.0 | 8.0 | 386 | 51 |
| Rotherham | 185.4 | 7.9 | 337 | 39 |
| St Helens | 128.7 | 3.9 | 411 | 29 |
| Southwark | 241.0 | 14.1 | 380 | 86 |
| Wigan | 200.6 | 10.0 | 382 | 49 |

Reductions shown as £ per head of relevant population. Source: Department of the Environment

which the money can be found." A spokesman said being capped may result in cuts of £4 million in the education budget and £2 million from social services budgets, or charges for school meals and leisure facilities might have to be increased.

In Avon, where no party has overall control, the leader of the Conservative Group, Mr John Wyatt said he was delighted the council had been capped by £26.6 million. "It is good news for the charge-

payors. Labour and the Democrats chose to ignore the warnings."

Mr Roger Berry, Labour leader, said he was angered by the decision. "We will be looking at the possibility of cutting back on road building and repairs rather than front-line services such as care of the elderly and disabled and education."

Barnsley said it was "appalled by the magnitude and severity of the cuts". The council has to reduce its

budget by £10 million, equivalent to £59 a head.

Basildon council said the decision was "crazy". It had already lost £15 million from changes in the business rates and grant allocations.

Greenwich reacted with "extreme disappointment" and said it would be lodging an immediate appeal. A spokesman said that if the £10 million reduction demanded were to be imposed proportionately across all departments, it would result in £4.8 million being cut from the education, £2 million from social services, £400,000 from highways maintenance and £2.7 million from other services.

"We have already sent out 154,000 poll tax demands (at £408 a head) and we estimate the cost of repeating this exercise with new figures will amount to about £500,000, when lost interest is taken into account," he added.

Mr Gordon Gallimore, leader of Doncaster council, said the decision to cap his authority had come as a wholly unexpected shock after the authority had set a poll tax figure of £334.53.

"We are extremely surprised as we felt our figures were below the average for the country. There must be Conservative-controlled authorities with higher figures than

ours who are not being affected by this decision."

Mr Brian Green, deputy leader of St Helens borough council, described it as "a politically partisan act that shows the Government at its most vindictive in attacking essential services for many sections of the community."

In Rochdale, Mr Richard Farnell, leader of the Labour-controlled authority, said the decision was savage. "It is totally unfair and will inevitably affect government initiatives such as local management of schools. It is a cruel blow to local people."

Southwark council in London said it was "a cruel and cynical blow to the people" and Camden predicted capping would cost it £1.5 million in lost cash flow.

In another London borough, Islington, re-billing was estimated at £1 million. A spokesman said the decision appeared to be politically motivated rather than based on financial considerations.

In Haringey, north London, a council spokesman said the capping was "a fraud" because Conservative boroughs in London had overspent their standard spending assessments by similar amounts but had not been singled out for cuts.

Sir Jack Layden, chairman of the Association of Metro-

politan Authorities, accused the Government of playing a political game.

"The Government has bent the rules to pretend it is the fault of Labour authorities. Capping will cause chaos in town halls as most bills have already been sent out and revised bills will not be ready until the summer."

"Delays will cause a cash flow problem at the very time when authorities would have to cut services massively to meet the new cap."

The Association of London Authorities condemned the capping and said ministers had ignored the administrative chaos that would result.

"The fact that no Conservative-controlled authorities are to be capped suggests that political manipulation lies at the heart of the decision. There are no objective reasons to back up the councils chosen for capping."

Mr Steve Hughes, deputy secretary and financial adviser for the association, said: "This list owes more to prejudice than principle. For instance, Haringey, Brent and Hammersmith and Fulham have all met the government's target for poll tax levels and have still been capped."

Leading article, page 15

Patten chooses high-spending option for tax capping

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

EXCESSIVE spending by local authorities lies at the heart of yesterday's announcement by the Secretary of State for the Environment of the 20 councils whose budgets and community charges are to be capped.

Under the Local Government Finance Act, Mr Chris Patten has the power to select authorities for charge-capping where their budgets are either excessive or where they represent an excessive increase over the previous year.

Because the poll tax only came into operation this month it was no surprise that Mr Patten chose the first of these two options. He compared budgets for this year against Whitehall's benchmark for council spending — standard spending assessment (SSA).

SSA, the successor to Grant Related Expenditure (GRE), which provided the basis for rate-capping, specifies how much a particular council should spend in the eyes of the Government to deliver a standard level of service.

Mr Patten decided to charge-cap every council with

a budget of at least £15 million whose spending exceeded its SSA by 12½ per cent and by at least £75 per adult.

He introduced a further threshold, however, designed to avoid triggering the system where the sums of money involved would be relatively small. No council will be capped unless its overspending per adult is "at least an extra" £26 or 50p a week.

In addition, special allowance has been made for London boroughs inheriting the overspending of the Inner London Education Authority.

The system chosen this year closely resembles the one that applied under rate-capping when councils more than 12½ per cent above GRE had their spending and rates bills curbed. To be capped their budget had also to be at least 6 per cent above the previous year.

Unlike rate-capping, however, charge-capping takes effect in the current year rather than in the following year. It will cost £6-£7 million nationally in extra paperwork.

The effect of applying the new formula is to catch 20 authorities, most of them Labour controlled, with the strong prospect of adding Lambeth to the list.

They will have to reduce their budgets and community charge levels to new ceilings laid down by the Secretary of State, although they do have 28 days to appeal against Mr Patten's rulings and suggest alternatives. The process should be complete by June or July.

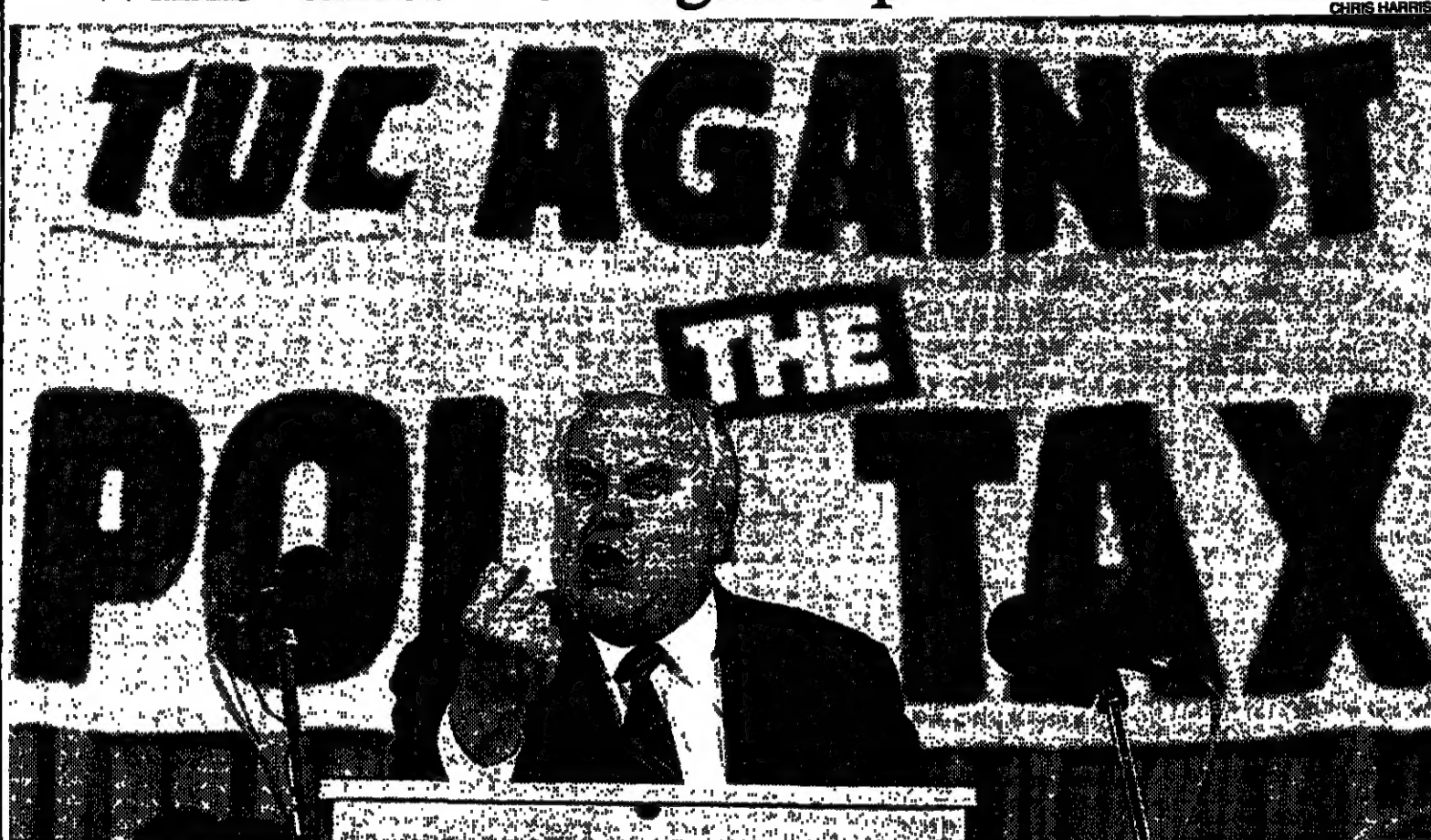
Across the 20 councils, reductions in community charge range from £26 to £99 per adult.

The new budgets set in Whitehall are intended to take account of local circumstances and do not represent a crude reduction to SSA levels. As Labour MPs pointed out in the Commons, they are almost certain to mean cuts in services.

Labour retorted that his formula was a "political fix". Mr Bryan Gould, its environment spokesman, said it had taken "enormous ingenuity" to devise criteria that spared Tory high-spenders such as Kensington and Chelsea Blackpool and Berkshire and put out an alternative set of figures.

Several Tory councils, for instance, with spending levels well above SSA escaped capping because they cleared the other hurdles applied.

Willis rallies TUC against poll tax violence



Mr Willis at yesterday's TUC anti-poll tax rally in London: Committed to democratic opposition and railing Government propaganda

The TUC considered abandoning yesterday's anti-poll tax lobby of Parliament, but went ahead to avoid an abdication of the democratic process which would have left a political vacuum, the general secretary, Mr Norman Willis, told a press conference (Nicholas Watt writes).

Mr Willis condemned the violence of Saturday's rally and reaffirmed the TUC's commitment to democratic op-

position by rejecting the campaign which supports non-payment of the poll tax. When, however, he told TUC members at Westminster Central Hall that the riots had made his stomach turn a member tried to shout him down by asking about the Government's violence against poor people.

The heckler was escorted away by TUC stewards as Mr Willis told him: "We will not see violence in our

streets. You don't give an example with a fist and a piece of concrete."

Later, when hecklers almost drowned his speech with a chant that they would not pay their poll tax, he shouted back: "When you stand up like that, look carefully at the smile on the Government's face. Because you're doing them a favour."

Mr Willis's central message about the poll tax was that opposition to it

must be kept up "to nail the propaganda coming from the Government that it is all the fault of irresponsible and profligate local authorities."

Mr Campbell Christie, general secretary of the Scottish TUC, told the rally that there has been no violence in Scotland because protesters have been united in their opposition to the Government and the "culture of debt collectors" working against them.

Labour challenges 'political' decision

By Craig Seton

THE LABOUR-controlled Derbyshire County Council said last night that its lawyers would crawl over the charge-capping procedure with a microscope after learning that its £560 million budget was to be cut by about £40 million.

That is equivalent to a reduction of about £56 a head for community charge payers in the nine districts of the county.

The poll tax rate for the nine districts ranges between £400 and £458 a head. Five of the councils, those controlled by the Conservatives, had appealed to the Government to cap the county.

The five local authorities last night applauded the Government's decision, although they acknowledged they will have to reassess poll tax amounts and levels of rebate.

The county council said that it would cost £5 million to send out new bills.

Mr David Bookbinder, the Labour leader, said that the county would investigate the possibility of a legal challenge

Council faces legal action by its registration officer

By Kerry Gill

LOTHIAN Regional Council, responsible for collecting the community charge in Edinburgh and its surrounding districts, is to be taken to court by its own poll tax registration officer because the council refused to double his staff.

Mr Ian Rogers, Community Charge Registration Officer, yesterday instructed his solicitor to lodge a petition in the Court of Session, Scotland's supreme civil court, accusing his council of failing to pro-

vide him with enough staff to carry out his work.

The move is the latest in a series of events in Edinburgh in which the city's Lord Provost and Lothian's Labour group leader have had their bank accounts frozen for non-payment. Ten other councillors have had their attendance allowances stopped.

The staffing dispute has been rumbling since last July when Mr Rogers found his 48 employees needed to be dou-

bled to register some 600,000 people liable to pay the charge in the Lothians.

A report by the council's management services unit found that Mr Rogers needed a further 48 staff and last month the matter was referred to the full council with a warning by the region's solicitor that if it refused Mr Rogers's demand the decision could be successfully challenged in court.

Yesterday the Labour-controlled council ignored the advice and decided that Mr Rogers should be given only 24 more employees.

Mr John Muirvey, the Labour group leader who has had his bank account frozen by his own council, accused Mr Rogers of blackmail and said he was "holding a pistol to our heads".

He said: "The crucial issue is whether or not a council of whatever political colour has any right whatsoever to have any control over its own budget."

No-confidence vote on Tory MP

ALL fifteen Conservative borough councillors in Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria have passed a vote of no confidence in Mr Cecil Franks, the local MP, after a dispute about the community charge.

They say he should not be automatically re-elected as Tory candidate to fight the general election.

In a letter to Mrs Pauline

Halfpenny, chairman of Barrow-in-Furness Conservative Association, the councillors said the entire Tory group feels that Mr Franks "no longer commands our support and confidence".

Earlier members of the group had dissociated themselves from a statement by Mr Franks that the poll tax figure for the town should be the

Government's figure of £194, not the £328 set by the council.

Mr Don Stewart, deputy leader of Humberside County Council's Conservative group, said that poll tax payers will have to find the £280,000 which the failure of the council's investment company, Humberside County Enterprises, has cost.

SNP president urges scrapping of warrant sales

By Kerry Gill

THE fight to rid Scotland of the community charge will be the main plank of the Scottish National Party's campaign in the lead-up to next month's regional council elections.

As the party launched its manifesto in Edinburgh yesterday, Mr Gordon Wilson, the SNP leader, said members who were elected would be given a clear mandate to do all in their power to halt warrant sales as a method of recouping poll tax debts.

Mr Wilson, who has received a summary warrant for refusing to pay, said that if the party was to gain control of a regional council, warrant sales would immediately be stopped.

"We have made it perfectly clear our councillors will be opposed to collection by way of the use of warrant

sales." The SNP was the only party with the courage to lead a mass campaign for non-payment, he said.

"Nothing could more clearly illustrate the utter contempt with which the Scottish people are treated by the English Parliament than the poll tax fiasco," he said. "Tory MPs who were quite happy to inflict the tax on Scots are up in arms now it is being imposed on English voters."

The non-payment campaign has brought the poll tax, which is already in administrative chaos, to its knees. One final push, through a massive vote for the SNP, will kill it off completely.

The SNP vote on May 3 will be a clear indication of the support its non-payment campaign has achieved. Although the nationalists claimed to be able to register 100,000 Scots as

part of its "Can't Pay, Won't Pay" protest as long ago as 1988, they have consistently refused to say how many people officially joined.

Party leaders simply state that with some 500,000 either having refused to pay or seriously in arrears, their campaign has worked. It is clear, however, that more people are now making arrangements to pay after receiving summary warrants.

The party won 37 regional seats at the last election and this year will field more than 300 candidates. Its main targets will be Grampian and Tayside. The nationalists were part of a minority administration in Grampian until their members resigned over warrant sales. They now hold the balance of power in Tayside.

The SNP's determination not to hold warrant sales could, however,

bring them into conflict with the law. The party argues that the use of warrant sales is not compulsory, but local authorities are compelled to use all legal means at their disposal to recover debts.

Mr Wilson said: "The Scottish National Party makes a clear, straightforward pledge — no ifs, no buts, no warrant sales. SNP councillors elected on May 3 will not countenance the use of this hated form of debt collection to squeeze a tax out of Scots that it is readily apparent the English Government is not prepared to impose without massive concessions on its own people."

The party's manifesto also pledges to save the Scottish steel industry and to oppose dumping of nuclear waste in Scotland.

Police not to face 'leaks' charges

No criminal charges are to be brought against police officers after the parents of two murdered 15-year-old girls complained about alleged breaches of confidentiality contained in a book on the case.

The *Blooding* by Joseph Wambaugh, an American, contained details of how Dawn Ashworth and Lynda Mann were murdered by Colin Pitchfork in Narborough, Leicestershire in 1986.

An investigation led by Mr Don Dovaston, Assistant Chief Constable of Derbyshire, has decided that the evidence does not justify charges.

Shares remand

Mr Alexander Scott, aged 40, of Bexley, Kent, managing director of Business Mailing Services, appeared before magistrates at Tower Bridge with five former employees yesterday accused of plotting to burn Abbey National share certificates. He was remanded to August 14.

Victim a mother

A baby born two months prematurely after her mother was accidentally shot by a neighbour's child, aged nine, was stable at the Rotunda Hospital, Dublin, yesterday. Mrs Claire Gaffney, aged 28, was hit in the stomach by a rifle bullet. Her daughter weighed over two pounds.

Damage charge

Mr Robert Hughes, aged 42, of Huyton, Liverpool, was remanded on bail until April 30 at the city's magistrates' court charged with criminal damage to 19 car windscreens.

Business jobs

About 1,500 jobs are to be created at Bishop's Bridge business park to be built in Lincoln.

Canada plea

Geneva — Canada has asked to become a full member of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) which oversees the movement of refugees to new homes. (Reuter)

Cheap labour

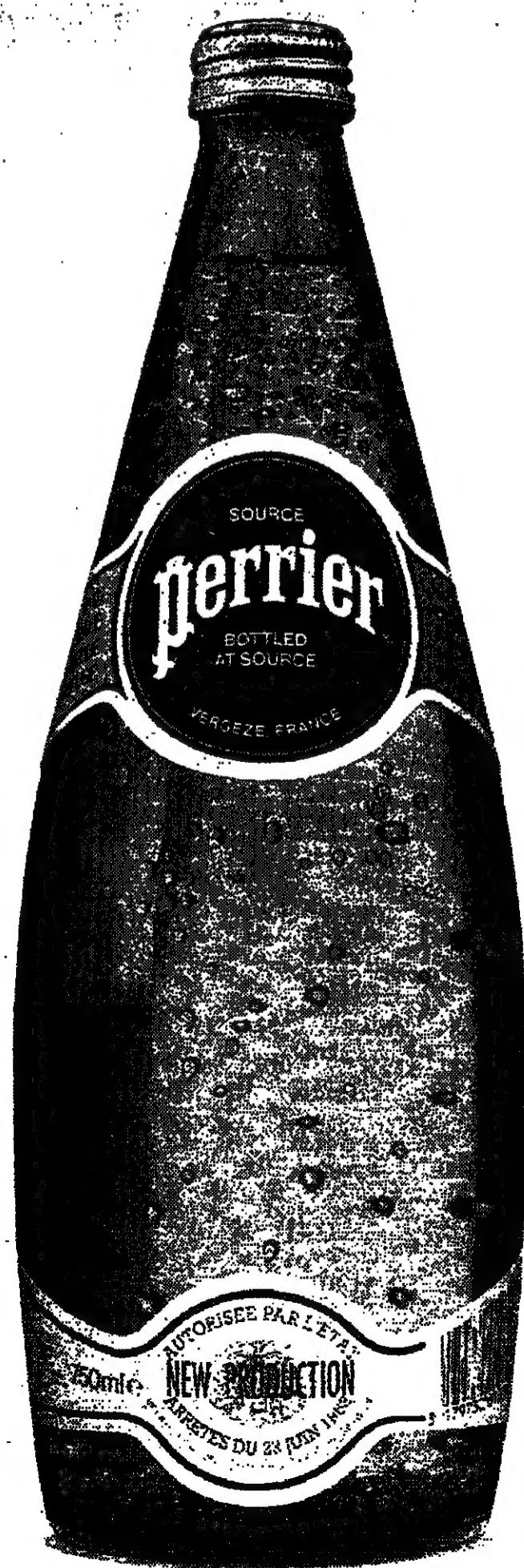
Jakarta — Half of the 1,551 companies surveyed in three cities pay their workers less than the minimum legal wage. In Jakarta, the minimum wage is 2,100 rupiahs (£0.67) a day. (AP)



Mr Wilson: "Big vote for SNP will kill off poll tax"

مكتبة الأمل

Helleau again.



THE HISTORY CURRICULUM

Thatcher line on testing of facts rebuffed in report

By David Tyder, Education Editor

MONTHS of public argument on how history is to be taught were launched yesterday by Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, after the final report of the National Curriculum history working group.

The report was sent to the Government in January. Publication was delayed while it was considered by Mrs Margaret Thatcher, who wanted more attention paid to the learning and testing of facts.

The final report, which says that is neither desirable nor practical, recommends that "essential" and "exemplary" information should be a compulsory part of specific courses.

The group contends that children will only be able to show an understanding of history which can be tested if the facts are learned and that they do not, therefore, require to be tested separately.

Mr MacGregor has asked the Schools Examinations and Assessment Council to report whether the methods suggested by the working group are practical and, if not, to suggest an alternative.

The report says: "Names, dates and places provide only the starting points for understanding."

"Without understanding, history is reduced to parrot learning and assessment to a parrot memory game."

"In the case of the French Revolution, the answer to the question, 'What was the date of Louis XVI's execution?' may tell us something about their understanding of the pupils' powers of recollection but nothing about their understanding of the great issues of social conflict, social change and the effect of the revolution outside France."

Mr MacGregor was anxious to make it clear that the decisions were his and shrugged off the Prime Minister's involvement. "Nobody should be at all surprised that

the Prime Minister is taking a strong interest in a subject as important as this is for the future of our children."

Mr MacGregor said that he was anxious that there should be a full public debate and had introduced an extra period of consultation on the document. He insisted, however, that the original timetable to begin National Curriculum history in the autumn of next year can still be met.

He said: "I have no doubt that there will be many differing views on what should be taught but it really comes

THE PURPOSES

THE REPORT says that the purposes of school history are:

- to help to understand the present in the context of the past;
- to arouse interest in the past;
- to help to give pupils a sense of identity;
- to help to give an understanding of their own cultural roots and shared inheritances;
- to contribute to knowledge and understanding of other countries and other cultures;
- to train the mind by means of disciplined study;
- to introduce the distinctive methodology of historians;
- to enrich other areas of the curriculum;
- to prepare pupils for adult life.

down to the question of how knowledge is handled and how it is tested.

"There has been a flurry of different views, and a great deal of parliamentary interest, but without people having read the report, I am now anxious for that debate to be taken publicly, based on what it actually says rather than on what they thought it said."

"As a historian I have no doubt that history does need to be taught on the basis of knowledge of the past. The key question is, has the group achieved that and can it be tested accurately?"

Commander Michael

Saunders Watson, chairman of the working group, said: "There are many strong views about history and the consultation period will allow people to let off steam on an informed basis."

"I am pleading for people to read the report and read it twice."

"It is a very complex document and unless people read it they will leap to conclusions about the attainment targets and programmes of study without knowing why we put them there."

The report details specific courses for those aged from five to 16, with a strong bias towards British history and will require the re-training of teachers, particularly in primary schools where little history has been taught.

Every course will teach four different aspects of history within the "FESC" formula: political, economic, social and cultural.

Commander Saunders Watson says in a letter to Mr MacGregor that the recommendations will "ensure that pupils will gain a proper grasp of chronology, increase the emphasis on British history and to look again at our approach to historical knowledge to ensure that it can be assessed."

He emphasizes that the lessons should be regularly reviewed: "Recent events in China and Eastern Europe have lent added relevance to our work and reinforced our view that school history should be flexible enough to respond to changing circumstances and perspectives."

The working group has decided against the much criticized "empathy" method of teaching history in which children are asked to imagine themselves in different situations in the past.

It says: "We can ensure that the teaching of history is not characterized by undisciplined use of the imagination, nor by exercises designed to

What children will learn in three key stages



Queen Boudicca: Led revolt against Romans



Queen Victoria: Longest reign in Britain



Neville Chamberlain: Negotiated with Hitler

Invaders and settlers

Political: Roman conquest. Resistance — Boudicca. Settlement and departure. Anglo-Saxon invasions. Alfred, King of Wessex. Viking raids.

Economic, technological and scientific: Economic motives for invasion and migration. Trade — goods, transport and routes.

Social and religious: Life in town and country. Gender roles in different cultures. Conversion of England by Celtic and Roman Christians.

Cultural and aesthetic: Roman styles of art. Anglo-Saxon pagan artefacts. Celtic and Anglo-Saxon Christian culture. Norse sagas.

Victorian Britain

Political: Queen Victoria as national symbol. Government and social reform.

Economic, technological and scientific: Industry in England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland — factory system. Child labour. Steam power. Mass production. New forms of transport — railways. Inventions.

Social and religious: Growth of towns and cities. Housing. Home lives of the poor and middle class. Public health. Population movements. Importance of religion.

Cultural and aesthetic: Architecture, art and literature. Leisure and pastimes.

Second World War

Political: The causes of war — Hitler, Britain and appeasement; invasion of Poland, 1939. Axis powers; theatres of war 1939 to 1945. Wartime leaders: Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin. Super Powers; origins of Cold War.

Economic, technological and scientific: nature of warfare. The atom bomb.

Social and religious: Genocide — the Holocaust. Refugees, homeless, victims of bombing. Prisoners of war.

Cultural and aesthetic: Broadcasting. Painting. War films and literature. Entertainment.

THE DETAILS

Mongols to Mughals in study units

DETAILED courses, known as History Study Units, for pupils aged five to 16 are given in the report:

From five to seven, children will be taught to acquire "a sense of time perhaps through their family or local history, to learn that there is a past and that it can be studied through old buildings, photographs and items in museums. They will also begin to distinguish between fantasy and reality."

From seven to 11, children will study British history from the earliest to modern times. One course will cover invaders and settlers: the Romans, Anglo-Saxons and Vikings in Britain, another, Life in Britain since 1930.

World history will offer two complementary courses: one linking with British history in exploration and encounters c1450 to c1550; the other,

ancient civilizations: Egypt and Greece. Optional courses include ships and seafarers; food and farming; and domestic life in Roman and Victorian times.

From 12 to 14, children will study four compulsory courses, three of them to provide a good survey of British history from medieval times to the start of the 20th century: medieval realms, c1066 to c1500; the making of the United Kingdom, c1500 to c1750; and expansion, trade and industry, Britain c1750 to c1900. The fourth course is on

the Roman Empire. Optional courses include castles and cathedrals c1066 to c1500; culture and society in Ireland up to early 20th century; the British Empire at its zenith, 1877 to 1905; Britain and the Great War 1914 to 1918; the Italian Renaissance; the French Revolution and the Napoleonic era; Islamic civilization up to the early 16th century; Imperial China, 221BC to the Mongol conquest AD1279; India from the Mughal empire to the coming of the British, 1526 to 1805; native people of the Americas;

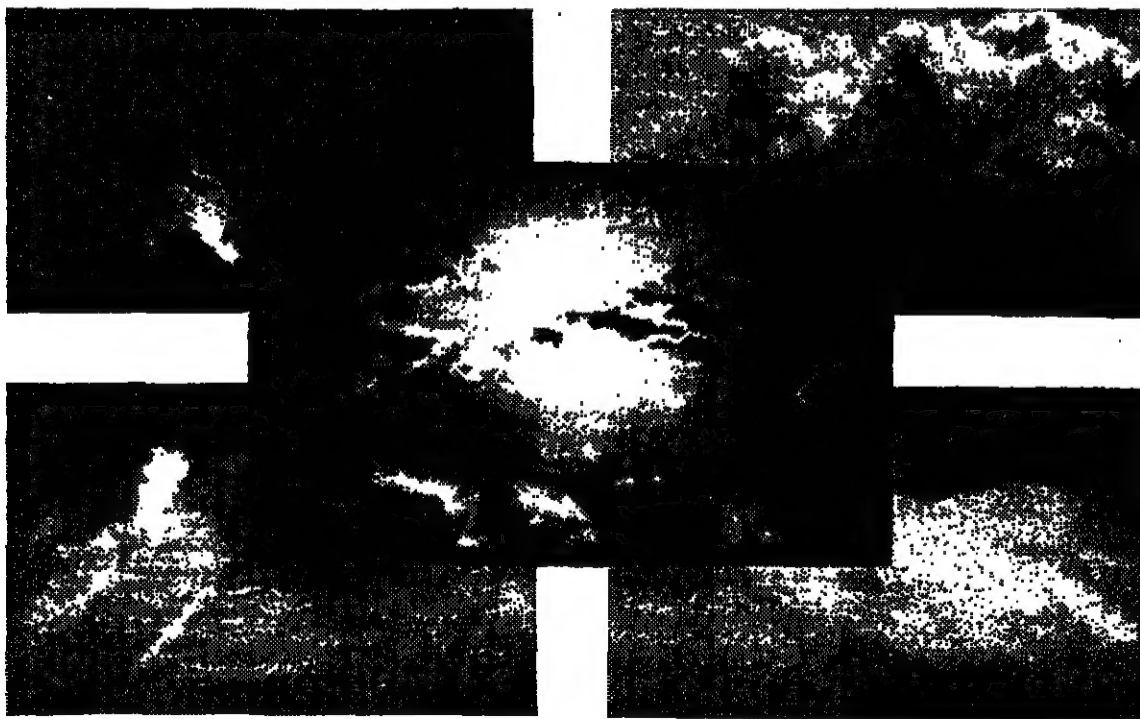
black people of the Americas, 16th to early 20th century; the American Revolution; and the American frontier c1650 to c1900.

From 14 to 16, children will study courses designed to round off the full course of history with one general course, Britain in the 20th century. Schools will be able to choose from two of the following three: 1906-14, 1929-39 and 1960-69. They will also study the era of the Second World War, 1933 to 1948, left out of the group's interim report last August.

The options include, East and West Europe, from 1948; Russia and the USSR, from 1905; the United States of America, from 1917; India and Pakistan, 1930 to 1964; Africa south of the Sahara since 1945; Japan from 1868; and China from 1937.

THE WORKING group issues a warning of the danger of history being taken over as a propaganda weapon. "Placing historical information in the attainment targets could be seen as a step down the road to an official history in the arbitrary selection of facts. Many people have expressed deep concern that school history will be used as propaganda; that governments of one political hue or another will try to subvert it... In some other societies the integrity of the teaching of history has been distorted by such objectives."

Robert Skidelsky, Page 14



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Labour jeers Patten's charge caps

THE POLL TAX

LABOUR MPs jeered, laughed and protested as Mr Christopher Patten, Secretary of State for the Environment, announced in the Commons yesterday that 20 local authorities, most of them Labour-controlled, are to be charged capped.

They should "Labour" as he said put the names.

Mr Bryan Gould, chief Opposition spokesman on the environment, described the statement as a final admission that the poll tax was a failure. Mr Patten, he said, had finally admitted the only virtues of the tax, that it would be simple and it would account for the cost of services.

Mr Patten said that local council budgets for the financial year, 1990-91, totalled £35.8 billion, 16 per cent above this year's figure and 9 per cent above the figure of £32.8 billion for which the Government had provided.

Charge-payers were being asked to contribute 30 per cent more than domestic ratepayers this year, despite the fact that central support to local authorities had been increased by 8.5 per cent.

It was deplorable that local authorities had chosen to budget at these levels, putting an unacceptable burden on local people. There was no justification for the level of charges set by many authorities.

The average charge was £363 in England, ranging from a horrendous £375 in Labour-controlled Hastings to £148 in Conservative-controlled Walsworth.

It was little wonder that strong feelings had been expressed about the level of charges and he could understand the feelings of outrage of a number of MPs when faced with the burdens some councils imposed.

The high charges were the direct result of authorities' own budget decisions over the years. "In time, I believe the ballot box will bring greater prudence and realism to local spending decisions."

After carefully considering all the information, he had decided

to exercise his capping powers and had decided to select authorities whose budgets were excessive in absolute terms.

He was applying the same principles to all classes of authorities except, for inner London boroughs where a special allowance was to be made for overspending inherited from the inner London Education Authority.

The best measure of excessiveness of an authority's budget was its overspend against its standard spending assessment, or SSA, the sum required to provide a standard level of service.

The principles he was adopting were:

- If the budget was more than the SSA by 12.5 per cent and at least £75 for each adult, Second, an authority was designated for capping only where its overspend per adult above the 12.5 per cent/£75 per adult benchmark for excessiveness is at least £26 per adult. That was a £26 per adult *de minimis* provision to avoid requiring authorities to reduce their budgets for the sake of only a small reduction in the burden on their chargepayers.

He added: "The special allowance I am making for inherited overspend means that for inner London boroughs I have deducted from each borough's budget, for the purposes of comparison with SSA, the amount of its inner London education grant entitlement as set out in the special grant approved by the House on January 18."

"By applying these principles to authorities' budgets for 1990-91 I am designating for capping 20 authorities."

These are, in alphabetical order: Avon, Barnsley, Basildon, Brent, Bristol, Calderdale, Camden, Derbyshire, Doncaster, Greenwich, Hammer-smith, Fulham, Haringey, Hillingdon, Islington, North Tyneside, Rochdale, Rotherham, St Helens, Southwark, and Wigan (loud Labour protests and interruptions).

"All these authorities are budgeting consistently in excess of their SSAs both relative to the SSAs themselves and in terms of pounds per adult."

Lambeth was not today being designated and he was awaiting further information from the council.

Some of the overspends, he continued, were spectacular by



any standards. Basildon was 194 per cent and £154 per adult above SSA. Greenwich was 32 per cent and £314 above, even allowing for inner London education grant.

The reductions in the charge which would be implied by the

caps ranged from £100 in the case of Hammersmith and Fulham to about £30 in the case of St Helens.

Authorities have 28 days in which to say that they accept the amount proposed or to suggest an alternative figure.

It was then for the minister to set the final cap higher or lower.

He expected all authorities to have set new budgets and charges by June or July.

Mr Gould said that it was a remarkable, even suspicious, achievement to have concocted a

list which miraculously excluded every single Tory authority.

Had not the criteria been produced to produce a predetermined political outcome?

Why were Dartford and Leominster, where spending was 73 per cent higher, not on the list while Haringey with a 6 per cent increase was on the list? Windsor and Maidenhead with charge rates of £449 were excluded, while Calderdale with only £297 was caught.

Why, if spending was the criterion, was Tory Berkshire, with an increased spending of 20.6 per cent, left out while Brent, with 1.4 per cent, was on the list?

If the minister was really concerned about high poll tax bills, why did he not accept that poll taxes across the country were more than £85 above government estimates and that there was no significant difference between Labour and Tory councils?

The problems arose from serious miscalculations by the Secretary of State. What Mr Patten had done would be universally regarded as a political fix. It was a cynical and desperate last throw to salvage something from the wreckage.

His squalid aim was to shift the blame of the whole of the poll tax fiasco for which the Government alone was responsible.

Mr Patten said that the Government used the previous grant distribution formula as the basis for rate capping.

Labour shire counties were setting precepts about £82 over SSA. Conservative ones were setting precepts £25 above.

Labour shire districts were setting charges £47 above SSA and Conservative ones £8 above.

Labour metropolitan districts were setting charges £94 above SSA and Conservative ones £21 above.

Labour London boroughs were setting charges £216 above SSA and Conservative ones £3 above.

"If Mr Gould wants an explanation for why there are not any Conservative authorities on the list, it is in those figures."

Dartford and Leominster could not be included in the criteria because their budgets

were below £15 million. They were specifically excluded by the Local Government Finance Act, 1988.

Mr Gould had failed to take account of those Conservative authorities contributing to the safety net and those Labour authorities which were taking money out.

Mr Gould had said last week on the Today programme on BBC radio that there must always be *in extremis* a reserve power to cap. So there was no argument in principle.

Would Mr Gould use those reserve powers in the case of Basildon where there was a 194 per cent increase, £154 per head? Was that *in extremis*?

"He has forgotten that the purpose of the proposals I have brought forward is not to penalize councils, but to protect charge-payers."

Mrs Rosie Barnes (Greenwich, SDP) said that the statement made a mockery of the Government's claim that the community charge would increase local accountability.

In many of the areas listed, there would be elections in the very near future where people could make their views known in the usual way.

Mr Patten said that there could not be different criteria according to whether some local authorities had elections this year.

Mr Martin Redmond (Don Valley, Lab) urged the minister to indicate to capped authorities which schools, teachers and services they should cut.

Mr Patten: There is no doubt at all that in the next few weeks I will have, in a number of local authorities, a parade of bleeding stomachs.

I believe very strongly that the caps which I have proposed will enable local authorities to run their services at a reasonable level.

Mr David Ames (Basildon, C) said that Mr Patten was the toast of Basildon where the local authority was 194 per cent over SSA.

Mr Allen McKay (Barnsley West and Penistone, Lab) said that his local authority now had a choice of sacking teachers or doing away with all non-statutory education facilities.

Leading article, page 15

Cost of running No 10 up 400%

The cost of running 10 Downing Street had risen by 400 per cent in the 10 years of Mrs Margaret Thatcher's residence there, Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolsover, Lab) said at question time. Mrs Thatcher replied that, using a similar basis, running costs compared favourably with figures for central government and for local government.

Mr Skinner had said the cost increase was bigger than for any local authority and did not include the cost of the gates (laughter).

"Does it not mean that the fortress of Mme Ceausescu is a suitable case for poll-capping?"

Mrs Thatcher asked whether Mr Skinner would have preferred the historic house to have been unprotected and great damage to have been caused to it.

Diet for Aids sufferers

The Department of Social Security has had representations that people with Aids or HIV infection should follow a special diet which costs £30 or more a week, but although people with Aids were often advised to follow a high protein-calorie diet, research suggested that such a diet could be devised for little more than half that cost. Mrs Gillian Shepherd, Under Secretary of State for Social Security, said in a written Commons reply.

Tory attacks nuclear plan

Enhancement of short-range nuclear weapons in West Germany was criticized by a Conservative MP at question time.

Mr Cyril Townsend (Bexleyheath, C) said that he had supported such a concept a year ago, but now, after events on Eastern Europe, it was "finally and firmly finished".

Concern for Zimbabwe

There was great concern in Britain at the prospect of Zimbabwe sliding into a one-party state, Mr Nicholas Soames (Crawley, C) said during question time.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Timetable motion on Lords amendments to Education (Student Loans) Bill and consideration of amendments. Lords (2.30): Debate on inert cities.

NHS scheme 'absurd'

THE absurdity of the Government's proposals for reform in the National Health Service and Community Care Bill was that they were being introduced completely untried and untested, Lord Emsdale, chief Opposition spokesman on health, said yesterday during the second reading of the Bill in the House of Lords.

Watched from the steps of the Throne by Mr Kenneth Clarke, Secretary of State for Health, Lord Emsdale said: "No businessman in his right mind would put on the market a product which had not been tried and tested."

"No secretary of state would make available for use in the health service medicines that had not been tried and tested."

"Why then are we taking a different attitude in terms of structure and organization in the National Health Service?"

"I am not arguing that we should reject these proposals, but I am arguing that they should be tested before they are put across the country, successful or otherwise."

The community charge would be peripheral by comparison

HOUSE OF LORDS

With the issue of the health service. The depth of feeling throughout the country in April 1991 would be more serious, though it would not be accompanied by violence.

"Any government with the current problems which presses ahead with this Bill is committing suicide by the most painful way possible. If they do, then they have taken leave of their senses."

"Our handling of this great issue may give to this House one of its finest hours and I believe the country, and certainly the 950,000 who work in the health service and millions of their patients who share their concerns, now look to this House for a lead. It is up to us to show courage."

Lady Hooper, Under Secretary of State for Health, moving second reading of the Bill, said that if the health service was to flourish in the next decade and the next century, it needed both continuity

and change; continuity of the ideals which inspired its founders, and change without which there would be stagnation. The Bill would ensure that the health service would face the challenges of the future with a forward-looking dynamic approach to the delivery of care.

The key elements of the proposals were: greater delegation and freedom of action for staff at all levels; a more flexible approach to funding which put patients, not the system, first; and the creation of a climate that allowed doctors, nurses, managers and all other professionals to put quality right at the heart of their agendas.

The basis of the National Health Service was unchanged and would remain so. It would be free at the point of delivery and funded out of general taxation.

"We are in the business of renovation, not demolition," Lord Winstanley, Liberal Democrat spokesman on health, said that he accepted the need for reform of the health service. Much had been learnt since its inception 42 years ago. Much of that experience was represented among the distinguished professionals in the House and the Government should take heed of their advice.

There would be pleasure in discomfiting the Government by attacking the Bill, but it would be more constructive to discuss ways of improving the proposals. He would like to see it improved through evolution.

The Bishop of Manchester, the Right Rev Stanley Booth-Clibborn, said that there were serious doubts throughout the country, especially among professional bodies, about fundamental issues in the Bill.

There was a tendency to dismiss such criticism as motivated by self interest, but that was not the case. Opposition came from deep concern and knowledge of the workings of the health service since its creation.

One reason for the concern of the church was due to the evolution of private medicine and private health care.

"I do not believe it is possible to carry conviction when professing deep commitment to the health service and all it stands for, while at the same time constantly paying tribute to private medicine, even to the extent of giving tax relief to those with private health insurance."

A DEMAND for improved pay and condition for members of the armed forces was made during Commons questions yesterday by Mr Martin O'Neill, chief Opposition spokesman on defence.

Mr Archie Hamilton, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, said it was accepted in the armed forces that the Government was addressing the problem of the future and they knew that the Government would be coming forward with plans before long.

When he made visits to Service establishments he was often asked whether there was a chance of a Labour government because they knew that that would have a much more dramatic effect on their future than anything else.

He said earlier that in the six months from August 1989 to

'Delighted Thatcher' attacked

THE Prime Minister could barely conceal her delight at the diversion caused by the weekend's violence in London. Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, said to loud Conservative protests during question time. She needed the extremists, he added.

Mr Kinnock: It is obvious to anyone who has observed her in recent days that she was rightly horrified by the injuries done to police, public and property last Saturday and it was equally clear that she could barely conceal her delight at the diversion (Conservative protests).

When it comes to extremists the difference is this: I fight them. She needs them. Mrs Thatcher: He is talking nonsense on both counts. Yes, I was deeply concerned because this is not the first time that police have been injured in upholding the rights of ordinary citizens.

During the coal dispute, 1,392 police had been injured; during Wapping, 572, and there were the scenes outside Grunwick, the Stockport Messenger, Warwick and the scenes last week, which all condemned.

Mr Kinnock: She exposes herself even more, by dredging through all those past events because she demonstrates the

PRIME MINISTER

truth of what I said earlier. Those who affect to despise her policies must give the greatest comfort to her, but she deserves that comfort and encourages further uproar.

Mrs Thatcher: Mr Kinnock is trying far too hard and not succeeding. Does he condemn the 28 or 30 MPs on his own side who seek to break the law? What does he say to people who, throughout the years in the Labour Party, have not always said that it was necessary to obey the law?

An MP for Hull, on rate capping, said: In the local authorities situation, do you obey the law or not obey the law? We do not have any firm principles in the Labour Party how we might deal with the problem.

Conservative MPs: Answer!

Earlier, Mr Peter Viggers (Gosport, C) asked: Does she agree that in the light of recent shocking acts of violence it is the duty of all responsible political leaders not only to express in words but to take all the actions open to them to influence others to obey the law in every respect. Mrs Thatcher: I agree. No

Guillotine move angers House

EDUCATION

LABOUR and Conservative MPs protested vigorously at the government announcement that it intends to guillotine the Education (Student Loans) Bill when it returns to the Commons for consideration of Lords amendments today.

Mr Bruce Grocott, an Opposition spokesman on House of Commons affairs, complained that this was yet another guillotine motion coming on the day that the Commons was to have another guillotined debate on the Social Security Bill.

Guillotine procedure, far from being exceptional and being used for complicated legislation, was becoming a normal method of government business. The student loans Bill had only four clauses and five pages.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Leader of the Commons, said that it was

in the interests of all sides of the House to have a reasonable amount of time allocated in a timetable motion.

Mr Simon Hughes, Liberal Democrat spokesman on education, said that there were only three matters of controversy left in the Bill and the Government had made a concession on one of them, the position of disabled students. Was the Government so frightened?

Mr Robert Rhodes James (Cambridge, C) said the Lords had spent three days debating these matters. They had produced three amendments which were admittedly controversial but surely should be debated at length.

What steps was the minister intending to take to retain these experienced men of some 15 years' service who were the backbone of the Navy?

Mr Hamilton said that a review of allowances had not gone down well with the Royal Navy. Some of the worst aspects of that were being looked at again. He was also looking at "overstretching". Some people in the Services were working very hard.

'Forces pay' demand

DEFENCE

January 1990, 1,947 personnel from the Royal Navy and Royal Marines, 2,461 Army personnel and 2,974 Royal Air Force personnel applied to leave prematurely.

Mr Peter Hardy (Wentworth, Lab) said urgent steps should be taken to deal with uncertainty in the Services by having a serious and thorough defence review. There was also anger and anxiety about pay, exacerbated by the odious poll tax, because privates and generals paid the same.

Mr Hamilton said that a survey had shown that the main reasons for leaving early concerned family life, lack of job satisfaction and prospects outside the Services, which were

good with the flourishing economy.

Mr Rupert Allason (Torbay, C) said that members of the defence study group, attending a meeting on HMS Norfolk on Monday, were struck by the number of people of chief petty officer rank who intended to leave the ship, the newest contribution to naval defence forces.

What steps was the minister intending to take to retain these experienced men of some 15 years' service who were the backbone of the Navy?

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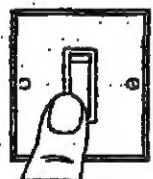
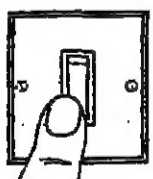
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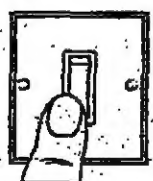
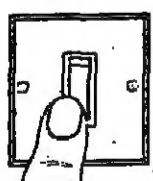
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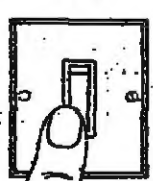
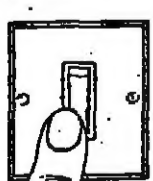
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US talks to foster Soviet ties despite Vilnius crisis

By Martin Fletcher in Washington and Michael Evans in London

MR JAMES Baker, the US Secretary of State, and Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, today begin three days of talks in Washington that will have a major bearing on the future course of superpower relations.

They meet at a time when Moscow's intimidatory conduct in Lithuania has jolted American confidence in the sincerity of Soviet reforms. President Bush is under strong domestic pressure to take a harder line with President Gorbachev and to lead more robust support to Lithuanian demands for independence.

State Department officials said that during a lengthy one-to-one meeting today Mr Baker will question Mr Shevardnadze about events in the Baltic republic, probing Soviet intentions and continuing to press for a peaceful solution to the crisis through negotiations.

But publicly the Americans are likely to persist in their policy of avoiding inflammatory comments, hoping that the crisis will not dominate a mini-summit arranged to consolidate and build on the thaw in superpower relations.

The Bush Administration believes continued progress towards arms control, the resolution of regional conflicts, democratization in Eastern Europe and internal reform in the Soviet Union must outweigh Lithuania's demands for independence.

It sees the central purpose of the mini-summit, one of a series, as smoothing the way for completion of conventional and strategic nuclear arms reduction treaties this year and agreeing a date for a summit between Presidents Bush and Gorbachev this summer.

However, *The Washington Post* yesterday claimed that the State treaty would permit the deployment of almost as many US nuclear warheads as exist at present, some 15 per cent more than when negotiations began eight years ago.

The treaty would not cover most of the American strategic weapons produced during the Reagan years, and would not limit production of nuclear-tipped cruise missiles, submarine-launched missiles and aircraft-delivered bombs, the article said.

It would also fail to prevent

much of the continued modernization of the Soviet strategic arsenal.

Mr Paul Nitze, the veteran former arms control negotiator and principal architect of Start, was quoted as saying: "We haven't gone far enough. I don't think it really helps us that much. Today, one really ought to aspire to do better."

The Washington Post said the treaty would cut US and Soviet ballistic missile warheads by around 35 per cent and about 50 per cent respectively.

This will affect Moscow's arsenal of silo-based missiles carrying multiple warheads.

However, it would permit the deployment of new mobile land-based missiles. Sea-launched cruise missiles would be exempt.

Each B-52 bomber, and its Soviet counterpart, would be counted as carrying only half its full load of air-launched cruise missiles, and as many as 22 hydrogen bombs or short-range nuclear-tipped missiles on a B-1 or B-2 bomber would count as just one weapon.

This "undercounting" of bomber weapons would allow the US to proceed with its planned production of 1,633 new short-range attack missiles, up to 1,460 advanced air-launched cruise missiles and thousands of new "gravity" bombs.

Senior US sources pointed out yesterday that there never was any question of a 50 per cent cut across the board for all categories of strategic missiles.

But there would be a "substantial reduction" in the missiles under negotiation, and this would "codify and stabilise the strategic environment".

The 50 per cent cuts would affect the Soviet Union's huge, multiple-warhead SS18 land-based systems and the US would probably have to agree large cuts in the submarine ballistic missile force, the sources said.

They also said that agreement had been reached, at the February meeting in Moscow between Mr Shevardnadze and Mr Baker, for both sides to make a declaration on their respective nuclear cruise missile production plans. Although this would not be part of the treaty, it would give each side a clearer picture of the "shape and size" of the cruise missile stocks.

Romania expels exile politician

From Tim Judah, Bucharest

The Romanian Government has expelled one of its harshest critics. Mr Doru Braia was put on a plane to Vienna on Monday.

Mr Braia, who is aged 39, and a member of an exile grouping, the World Federation of Free Romanians, claimed in a statement issued in Bucharest, that he had been beaten unconscious before being expelled.

Mr Christian Munteanu, the government spokesman, said that this was "totally false" and that he would soon produce proof to prove it.

The Government deported Mr Braia, who is of Romanian origin but travels on West German refugee documents, after making grave allegations about him. In a communiqué, the Government said that he was "a member of a neo-fascist organization based in Munich which has extremist-terrorist aims."

The World Union of Free Romanians, which is led by Mr Ion Ratiu, has rejected these allegations. Mr Munteanu said that Mr Braia had been attempting to "instigate violent destabilization in Romania." Mr Braia had "called for the heads" of President Iliescu and Mr Petre Roman, the Prime Minister.

The next day Mr Braia was expelled.

Life sours at la Défense's top spot

From Philip Jacobson Paris

THE French have always been dedicated complainers, so it is no surprise to hear the strains of *la grogne* echoing around the Arche de la Défense.

Barely six months after the first offices opened in the massive hollow cube of glass and concrete that towers above the capital's business centre, all seems far from well in one of President Mitterrand's pet projects.

According to insiders, working in the 35-storey, £250 million building — completion of which was timed for last year's celebration of the bicentenary of the French Revolution — can be distinctly miserable. Take the 2,000 civil servants toiling for the Ministry of Planning in the "south leg" of the Arche:

C'est la Galère (it's hell on earth), declared the headline in yesterday's *Le Quotidien de Paris*.

The newspaper reported that the stresses of life on the top have already thrown up an identifiable "Arche syndrome" that has led some to request transfers to a less destabilizing environment. The air-conditioning system is a particular target of wrath.

"On the south side, it's like Tahiti when the sun shines, and on the other side it gets like Siberia." Too noisy also, say critics, adding to the "ding" and "clong" of various bits of the metal structure that were never meant to move but constantly do.

In high winds, it is maintained, the sound of rope-rigging snapping against the Arche's tall masts and flagpoles,

"makes you think you are in the harbour at La Rochelle." During some recent gales the panoramic exterior lifts that provide the only access to the roof had to be shut, obliging the staff of the human rights organization up there to descend by the emergency staircase.

La grogne continues... There are the exterior windows, which, by some freak of design and double-glazing, produce a mirror-like effect in duplicate that some understandably find disconcerting.

For lucky inhabitants of the Arche, that view can be stunning (air pollution permitting): straight up to and through the Arc de Triomphe, down the Champs-Élysées and into Place de la Concorde. So what? say the grumblers, all you can see from the staff cafeteria is "motorway intersections and a cemetery."

Azerbaijan aided Vilnius deserters

From Anatol Lievin, Vilnius

TWO Lithuanian youths last weekend made a long journey for their country. Mr Petros Vysniauskas and Mr Raimondas Dunaitis, both aged 20, deserted from their Soviet Army unit on the Iranian frontier last Thursday and arrived in this capital city, almost 1,500 miles away, at midnight on Monday.

I met them in the now almost empty registration office for deserters in the parliament building. They had been serving in an infantry battalion guarding the border in Nakhichevan, the Azerbaijani enclave in Armenia.

The area has seen some of the worst fighting between Azerbaijan and Armenia, with Soviet troops caught in the middle. "Three months ago, it was like Afghanistan," Mr Vysniauskas told me.

A mixture of Lithuanian patriotism and hardship persuaded them to desert. "Our barracks had no glass in the windows, and we had to sleep on the floor," they said, adding: "All the Balts caught dysentery, and half the soldiers had hepatitis at some stage."

Their company, surprisingly for one stationed in Muslim territory, was made

up mostly of Muslims, and relations between these and the "whites", as they call the Europeans, were very bad. "They make a Mafia, and all the work is put on the whites," Mr Dunaitis said. "There is nothing the officers can do about it."

He said that, while the Uzbeks and the Kazakhs, but not the Tajiks, worked together, "that doesn't mean that we Balts can stick together with the Russians."

The 13 Lithuanians in the battalion heard definite news of their parliament's declaration of independence only on March 16, five days after it was made, when a Latvian comrade had a phone call from his mother. "There were rumours before that, but the officers denied them."

Mr Vysniauskas said that the Lithuanians were called in "sometimes twice a week" to be interrogated by political officers from battalions and divisions — even Moscow — concerning their political beliefs and whether they were "agitators" among the other soldiers.

The two escaped by going to the office of the Azerbaijan Popular Front in the town of



President Landsbergis, left, talking to Lithuanian deputies in the supreme soviet.

Nakhichevan. The Front hid them, gave them civilian clothes and smuggled them in a mail flight to Baku, the Azerbaijani capital, with two Azerbaijani guides. Once in Baku, they simply took the train, eventually getting home after changing trains in Kharkov and Minsk.

Mr Vysniauskas said that they heard of the Lithuanian government statement that it cannot protect soldiers and suggesting they stay in the ranks pending negotiations, only after leaving their unit — "too late to go back."

Both have little fear of being recaptured. "Lithuania is quite big, and we have a lot of friends to hide with. Of course, we are not staying with our families," if they are captured, they risk following

the deserters seized last week into the "refuge" at the psychiatric hospital not far from Vilnius.

The two women working at the registration centre for deserters told me that they received eight more telegrams yesterday sent in the names of some of these men to their families, to add to the three received on Monday.

All the messages were addressed from Anadyr, in the far north-east of Siberia, and all read simply: "I am alive and in good health and will write to you soon."

Of the 38 men who were in the hospital ward when the paratroopers made their swoop last week, 11 are therefore known to be in Soviet hands at Anadyr. 11 are known to have escaped and

are being hidden by their families, and the rest are still unaccounted for.

The centre's secretary said that the number of deserters coming in had shrunk greatly in recent days, but that there appeared to be no truth to statements by Mr Mėcys Laurinkus, the head of the parliamentary committee "for the legal protection of soldiers", that between five and 10 former soldiers are now being arrested every day in the republic.

When I recently spoke to Mr Laurinkus, now in Moscow as a Lithuanian representative, he appeared to have only the vaguest knowledge of the situation of the men who are his responsibility.

Letters, page 15

Somersault on Berlin coalition

From Anne McKelvey, East Berlin

East Germany's Social Democrats performed yet another somersault yesterday and announced that they were, after all, prepared to enter coalition negotiations with the conservative Alliance for Germany, including the right-wing German Social Union.

The announcement came after the SPD's parliamentary wing overturned Monday's vote by the executive to remain in opposition at a heated all-night sitting.

Talks began yesterday afternoon aimed at constructing Parliament next Tuesday.

Herr Markus Meckel, the SPD's acting leader, said that co-operation with the three-party Alliance depended on a promise that wages and savings would be exchanged at parity in a currency union. He said that he would seek guarantees that his party's ideas, particularly on foreign policy and a social safety net after the currency and economic reforms, would have a significant place in the new government.

A further demand was that the German Social Union be excluded from important ministerial posts, such as the interior, and in effect be relegated to junior partner in the coalition.

Meanwhile, Herr Ibrahim Böhm, the party's former leader, who resigned on Monday after persistent allegations that he had worked for the Stasi secret police, was readmitted to hospital yesterday after suffering a breakdown at the weekend and incurring head injuries in a suspected suicide attempt. The incident,

together with the ungainly quadrille conducted around the coalition question, has fuelled widespread dissatisfaction in East Germany with the calibre of the new breed of politicians to emerge in the fledgling democracy.

Herr Böhm, although still widely considered innocent of the charges against him, was incapable of weathering his first political storm. A sensitive and academic man, he never looked entirely convincing as leader, saying just days before the party's disastrous election defeat that he was looking forward to retiring so that he could write.

Herr Lothar de Maizière, the quietly-spoken Christian Democratic leader, coped rather better when similar allegations were raised against him but few are ecstatic at the thought of the humourless lawyer as Prime Minister.

Most of East Germany's new leaders are terrified of the press and often react to questions with obsequious answers, chastising unfortunate journalists for asking the "wrong" questions.

The lack of talent in depth is a sad result of the former Herr Erich Honecker's policy throughout the 1980s of pressuring dissidents to leave the country. The fertile ground of opposition was thus neatly transferred to the Federal Republic. Leading dissidents, such as Herr Wolf Biermann, the singer, a close friend of President Havel of Czechoslovakia, now say that they feel too out of touch with their country to return.

The Chancellor comes into his own — at 60

From Ian Murray, Bonn

Respected political life for Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, has begun at the age of 60.

Regarded only eight years ago as an electoral liability by his own Christian Democrats (CDU), he was hailed here on his birthday yesterday by 2,000 admirers packed into the Beethovenhalle as the spiritual grandson of Konrad Adenauer, as the architect of a new German unity and as the party's greatest asset.

Smiling massively, the Chancellor clearly enjoyed the kind of praise which has eluded him for most of his long political career.

Typical of his career, however, was the fact that his birthday celebrations went on amid yet another row he has unleashed. A month ago, he held out the prospect of quick prosperity to hundreds of thousands of cheering East Germans in a series of speeches that gave the CDU victory over the Social Democrats (SPD). Now that the Bundesbank would like to halve the value of East German money, he must square economic reality with voters' expectations. The idea of the German "Fatherland" has always been his inspiration, but he has earned criticism at home and abroad for the way he has called on patriotic fervour to build up pressure for German unity, while reiterating a commitment to European unity.

This device of facing both ways at once has been the hallmark of Herr Kohl's style. Helped by the advice of the loyal, long-serving kitchen cabinet he brought with him from his days as CDU leader in Rhineland Palatinate, he is second to none in reading the public mood and harnessing it.

He brilliantly exploited the remote prospect of reunification last November to turn it into a near reality today. By issuing a ten-point plan to unity, without consulting anyone, he shocked the western allies, but opened the way to the CDU's triumph in the East German elections. That, in turn, makes him, odds-on favourite to become the first Chancellor of a united Germany since Hitler.

The West German economy

has grown steadily, since he took office and is expected to increase by another 4 per cent in real terms this year.

His self-confidence first asserted itself in the international arena a year ago during the argument over whether Nato's short range nuclear arsenal should be modernised. He then took on Mrs Thatcher — and, basically, won. Then there was his refusal to give way to the efforts of President Mitterrand of France to begin talks on European monetary union before he faced his voters at the end of this year.

Now, in pressing ahead with plans for greater political integration in Europe, he is defying Mrs Thatcher again. From having been long treated as the bumbling, clumsy newcomer to top flight international councils, Herr Kohl is now dictating terms.

His one major error has been his reluctant agreement to make a clear statement over the western Polish frontier. But even that mistake was a calculated vote-winner.

Herr Kohl manages to make a success even of his mistakes.

Budapest leaders feel voter ire

From Ernest Beck, Budapest

HUNGARIAN politicians and parties are discovering that democracy and free elections can be dangerous now that 40 years of one-party communist rule and a succession of grey-faced leaders have been swept away. Voters want answers and honesty, not empty promises, and they can turn nasty when not satisfied.

Mr Ferenc Morvai, a flamboyant self-made millionaire businessman, and independent candidate in Bacs-Kiskun county, discovered this the hard way a few days ago as campaigning for Sunday's second round of parliamentary voting entered its final phase.

As he arrived in the town of Kiskoros for a short campaign visit, Mr Morvai was confronted by a group of irate locals who threw themselves in front of his car. He was dragged out, tied up and beaten while his car was set alight and destroyed.

What prompted this outburst in the usually quiet town of Kiskoros, a north-eastern Hungary? Mr Morvai,

it appears, is regarded as an outsider, an interloper and an impostor who, many people think, is trying to buy his way into Parliament with money campaign tactics.

Kiskoros is the birthplace of Hungary's great national poet

legend was his promise to buy the entire local grape harvest and to create an agricultural bank, as well as some overly nationalistic statements about Romania.

Undaunted, Mr Morvai says he will continue the race and will not flinch from his quest to gain a seat.

Other politicians have reluctantly succumbed to the popular will. Mr Imre Pozsgay, once Hungary's most popular politician, dropped out of his constituency race after suffering a humiliating defeat, reaching third place behind opposition candidates.

Although Mr Pozsgay certainly won a seat on his Socialist Party's national list, he lashed out at his opponents before stepping down, claiming that they used "blackmail, unethical methods, discrediting statements and provocations" to turn voters in his home district against him. "As always, I will turn my loss into a victory," Mr Pozsgay solemnly declared.

How many voters will actually turn out for the run-off

Britain to stay out of Unesco for now

From Susan MacDonald Paris

AFTER two years of detailed study of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, the British Government announced yesterday that it would not at present rejoin the organisation it withdrew from in 1965.

In a written House of Commons answer to a question by Mr David Howell, a Tory MP, on whether Britain would now rejoin Unesco, Mr Tim Sainsbury, Under-Secretary of State at the Foreign Office, announced that "in present circumstances we cannot endorse the choice, administration and implementation of the organisation's programmes."

The Government cited mismanagement, mishandling of finances and politicization of Unesco's programmes as its principle reasons for withdrawing a year after the United States had taken a similar decision. Singapore withdrew in 1985 as well.

Britain also expressed disapproval with two controversial Unesco programmes, the New World Information and Communications Order, which attempted to impose controls on the media, and the "people's rights" programme which made human rights a collective rather than individual issue.

Senior Federico Mayor, a Spanish bio-chemist, took over as Director-General from Mr Amadou Mahtar M'Bow, a Senegalese, in 1987 promising to reform the organisation.

Regrettably, Mr Sainsbury said, "some more time is necessary before it will be possible to be certain of the Director-General's ability to deliver the reforms which Unesco badly needs."

A recent report by Britain's Foreign Affairs Committee recommended a delay of another year before it could be certain, but Mr Sainsbury felt that 12 months might not be long enough.

Much of the negative aspects — including those concerning the two controversial programmes — were now minimal, but promised reforms had yet to be implemented.

Senior Mayor's surprise decision a month ago to create 44 senior staff positions at a cost of an extra \$6.2 million (£3.8 million), was cited in Mr Sainsbury's answer as causing considerable concern among member states and within Unesco itself.

The Director-General's decision on which he has since tried to backtrack, was according to the Foreign Affairs Committee disturbingly "redolent of bad old habits within the organisation" and clearly made it impossible for Britain to return.

Japan and France, which had been actively pressing for Britain's return to Unesco, also changed their view after Senior Mayor's unilateral decision to create the new posts. A British return now, said a member of the Japanese delegation, would give the impression that Unesco had reformed itself and this clearly was not so.

The US had no comment yesterday on the British decision not to rejoin at present. A US report on Unesco is expected in the middle of this month. It is understood that it will be couched in more negative terms than Mr Sainsbury's statement yesterday.

Mr Sainsbury said Britain would continue to maintain a Unesco observer in Paris and contribute to certain specific programmes.

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Arab-Israeli tension at new high as spy satellite launched

From Richard Owen, Jerusalem, and Chris Walker, Cairo

TENSION between Israel and the Arab states rose yesterday to levels not seen since the 1982 Lebanon war as Israel responded to Iraqi threats of a chemical weapons attack by launching its second satellite, and many Arab countries belatedly approved of Baghdad's tough new stance.

The launch of the state-of-the-art spy satellite came barely 24 hours after President Saddam Hussein of Iraq delivered his threat to retaliate with chemical weapons if Israel should again attack his country.

The reported aim of the satellite is to give Israel a vital edge in the increasingly sophisticated Middle East arms race, which some observers fear could lead to a new and deadlier Arab-Israeli conflict.

Foreign defence experts said the satellite, codenamed Ofek-II, would allow Israel to monitor arms developments in hostile neighbouring Arab countries and respond swiftly to any threat.

Mr Yitzhak Shamir, Israel's Prime Minister, said yesterday that threats by the "notoriously brutal" Baghdad regime were typical of the general Arab desire to destroy Israel, and warned that Israel knew how to defend itself.

The American State Department condemned President Saddam's statement as "inflammatory, irresponsible and outrageous", but the Arab world rallied behind it, with even officials in Jordan, which borders on both Israel and Iraq, expressing approval.

"We understand the importance of protecting the integrity of Iraq and of defending its national interests," a Jordanian official was quoted

as saying, causing alarm in Israel, which puts Jordan in a different category from hard-line "aggressive" Arab states like Iraq and Syria.

President Saddam's impassioned speech clearly took the Israelis by surprise, however, in striking a chord with Arabs who still smart over successive defeats at the hands of a superior Israeli military force. There is also much Arab bitterness over the West's apparent tolerance of Israel's alleged possession of nuclear weapons.

The discovery of an operation for smuggling nuclear trigger devices to Iraq through Heathrow Airport has aroused fears, shared in Israel, that Iraq is again capable of developing nuclear warheads despite Israel's destruction of the Osirak nuclear facility near Baghdad in 1981.

Israel is equally concerned by advances in Iraqi missile technology. In December Iraq tested a two-stage intermediate-range missile able to carry a nuclear payload.

Defence experts in Jerusalem pointed out that the launch of Ofek-II was as significant for the powerful type of rocket used as for the satellite itself. The craft carries an electro-optical camera and will reportedly provide instant "real time" information to Israeli defence and intelligence experts.

The launch of Ofek-I, a communications satellite, in 1988 was greeted by strident calls from Arab military leaders to respond by moving rapidly for nuclear weapons capability. A similar reaction is widely expected this time.

Leading Western military experts in Egypt expressed

deep concern about the sudden increase in mutual bitterness, recrimination and fear. "It could prove a recipe for disaster if moves are not taken quickly by both superpowers to dampen down feelings," one Cairo-based official said.

In Baghdad, even before the news of the Israeli launch, tens of thousands of Iraqis, some carrying huge portraits of President Saddam, thronged the streets in support of his threat to bombard Israel with deadly chemical warheads if the Jewish state should launch any pre-emptive strike such as that against the Osirak facility in 1981.

The demonstrations, matched by a similar provocative display of anti-Israeli and anti-Western fervour in other Iraqi towns and cities, showed every sign of having been carefully orchestrated in order to whip up passions and rally support for the regime.

They were matched on the diplomatic front by an Iraqi call for an emergency meeting of the 22 member Arab League at its Tunis headquarters to express solidarity with Iraq against Israel, the US and other powers considered hostile.

With the notable exception of Syria, Iraq's long-standing enemy in the Arab world and a country run by a rival wing of the Baath Socialist Party, Baghdad was expected to win wide support for its stand against Israel.

A League spokesman said that the meeting, at ambassador level, was likely to be held tomorrow. Arab diplomatic sources explained that the intention was to use it as a rallying point and, if support could be found, to follow it up with an anti-Israeli, anti-Western forum at a more senior level.

Ofek-II's launch was seen as giving a boost to these plans. Middle East observers said that the latest tension was of a different order from that which has become familiar during the intifada.

"The Iraqi weapons have given people the feeling that at last they have something to hit Israel with."

"It has reduced a long feeling of inferiority," one European diplomat said.

Al-Rad al-Ham, the Kuwait daily, said: "The tension in the region has risen to a boiling point... in hours or days... A pre-emptive Israeli attack is a firm and continuous policy, (and) this requires a quick Arab move to confront with all its resources the Israeli road towards the (river) Euphrates".

Leading article, page 15

Merger sparks Seoul clash



A masked student poised to hurl firebombs at riot police during demonstrations yesterday at Seoul University to protest against the merger of three political parties. Thousands of students, who called the merger a US plot, took part

Plea for Ethiopia aid as famine threat looms

By Michael Knipe, Diplomatic Correspondent

AID agency officials of the famine relief operations in rebel-held northern Ethiopia yesterday warned of the desperate situation that would develop in June if more food aid was not pledged.

"We need pledges of aid to supply at least 50,000 tonnes to the affected areas by June if mass starvation is to be avoided," Mr Tony Vaux, an emergency officer with Oxfam who has just returned from a tour of Eritrea, said.

Mr Vaux expressed concern for the three quarters of a million people in and around the government-controlled city of Asmara, which since the fall of the port of Massawa in February, has been surrounded by the Eritrean People's Liberation Front rebels.

He said the rebels had offered to allow food in to the government-controlled enclave.

Mr Vaux described the relief operation in Eritrea as the most effective he had ever seen, and Mr Jeremy Storer of Save the Children Fund, who has just visited the rebel-held areas of the Tigre and Wollo provinces, said he had been impressed by the way the distribution of food was being administered.

Food supplies were precisely identified; groups of up to 25 families each had a representative with a list of needs, and large sacks of food

were divided up for transportation back to villages on donkeys.

During January and February, Mr Storer said, relief supplies reached only 40 per cent of the one million people in Tigre and northern Wollo, and so large numbers of people were weakening rapidly.

However, the situation had improved and there was sufficient food to last until June.

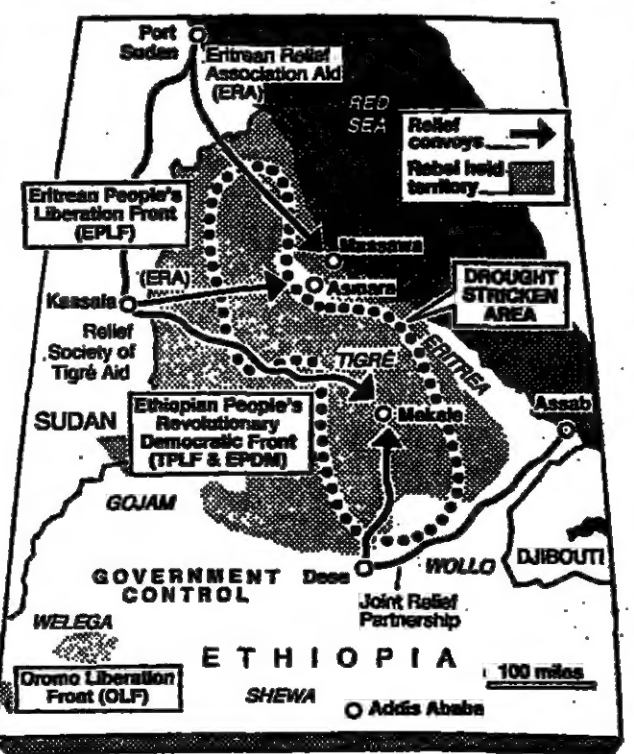
The next few weeks in Tigre would be crucial. However, in neighbouring Wollo, there was still cause for concern, with up to a million people requiring food and some uncertainty about the ability of the local relief operation to provide it.

Emergency supplies are reaching the needy by three routes — southwards across the border from Port Sudan; from nearby areas where supplies are plentiful; and through a southern route from the government-controlled port of Assab via Desse, and from there northwards into the rebel-controlled areas.

The latter route is operated by the Joint Relief Partnership, a consortium of local churches, and allowed safe passage by the central Government, but Mr Storer emphasized that it was an un dependable supply route.

In Eritrea, Mr Vaux said, the efficiency of the relief operation was clearly the result of the "terrible sense of national morale". The bombing of relief convoys by Ethiopian government fighter aircraft had had a minimal effect.

Mosques and churches were reopening and there was an agricultural revival, with oxen, seeds and tools being distributed to the destitute.



Police thwart Basque bomb plot

A BASQUE terrorist plot to blow up the main police headquarters in Seville was thwarted by the paramilitary Civil Guard's intelligence service. A suspected French extremist, 682 lb of high explosives and three automobiles destined for use as car bombs were also seized (Harry Debelius writes).

Authorities said here yesterday that the seizures followed a shoot-out last Monday between the Frenchman and police at a check-

point on a highway near Seville. A Civil Guardman was wounded.

In a subsequent phase of the operation, police captured several pistols and hand grenades.

A search continued in south-western Spain yesterday for three other members of a killer squad of the extremist Basque separatist organization, Eta.

The suspected French Basque activist, for whom police had at least three names on file, was tentatively identi-

fied as M Jean Dominique Ceron, aged 32. They said he was driving a Renault 14 full of explosives. He failed to halt at the checkpoint and allegedly fired at policemen, who tried to arrest him.

Investigators said the terrorist plan included subsequent bomb attacks of other targets in Seville in addition to the National Police headquarters there. Intelligence services probing Eta activities had kept track of the car since they first detected it in Madrid several months ago.

At least 48 die as violence grips Punjab

From Christopher Thomas, Delhi

AT LEAST 35 people were killed and 60 injured in Punjab yesterday in a bomb attack being blamed on Sikh separatists — one of the worst atrocities in an increasingly bloody terrorist war.

Violence raged elsewhere, too, with the total death toll reaching 48 in one day of carnage in Punjab even before darkness fell.

The atrocities are a serious blow to the four-month old Government of Prime Minister V. P. Singh, which has given top priority to solving the Punjab crisis.

Immediately after his election victory, Mr Singh went to Punjab, and risked his life by riding around in an open-topped jeep to demonstrate his sincerity in wanting to resolve the problem.

The bomb attack happened in the small town of Batala, south of the Sikhs' holy city of Amritsar. An indefinite curfew was imposed but mob violence erupted almost immediately. Police and security forces were rushed in to try to restore order.

The bomb was lobbed at a Hindu religious procession as it entered a congested vegetable market. There are no local hospitals and many died on their way to Amritsar, more than 50 miles away. Witnesses said the bomb was hurled from a passing car. Others said it was planted on a carrier of a bicycle parked outside a tea stall.

Sikhs, fighting for a separate homeland called Khalistan, have mounted an intensified campaign in recent weeks, exacting a high death toll.

Yesterday, violence raged in large areas of Punjab. In one attack, a head constable, his father, mother and brother-in-law were killed.

Police received a spate of reports of terrorists entering houses and killing people. The death toll in one day of carnage reached 48 even before darkness fell.

The Khalistan movement is hated by most Punjabis, who are terrified by kidnappings and extortion. Unlike the Kashmiri uprising, the Punjab's separatist movement enjoys little popular support. Rival groups frequently shoot each other in battles to carve up territories. The dead from

the Batala atrocity were ordinary citizens. They included a school teacher and his father, a geology worker, two electricity linemen, a young hospital intern and her mother. Police said 25 of the victims died on the spot.

Tensions have been heightened by government plans to extend direct rule in Punjab for another six months after present provisions for direct rule expire on May 10. Mr Singh said he hoped to allow elections if violence subsided in the next six months.

Even if elections were held, the chances of them being free and fair are extremely remote. Candidates from militant organizations swept the board in last November's general election after widespread intimidation.

In some areas no voters turned up, allowing militant candidates to be elected unopposed.

A Bill to extend direct rule collapsed in Parliament last week as there were insufficient MPs to make a quorum. Mr Singh said he would reintroduce the legislation, prompting protests from militant leaders.

An all-party meeting had been summoned today to take a final decision on reintroducing the legislation. Yesterday's atrocities may have been timed to influence the meeting. Most parties have decided to issue three-line whips when the Bill is presented, probably at the end of this week.

The Khalistan terrorist movement relies heavily on kidnappings to bolster funds received from overseas, including Britain. The kidnappings have done more than anything to alienate the terrorists from the local population.

Most kidnappings go unreported because ransoms are paid without police being informed. Farmers are particularly vulnerable to extortion, especially if they hold substantial properties.

Well-to-do farmers in the worst terrorist-affected areas, now live in towns and commute to their farms by day. Some have become permanent absentee landlords, administering their farms from a safe distance.

Geagea accepts Taif pact

From A Correspondent Beirut

THE Christian militia leader, Mr Samir Geagea, yesterday publicly recognized the authority of pro-Syrian President Hrawi of Lebanon and endorsed a controversial Arab-brokered peace accord on Lebanon.

It was the first such stand by Mr Geagea since Parliament met in Taif, Saudi Arabia, on October 23 and reached the agreement to end Lebanon's civil war.

It provides for a phased Syrian troop withdrawal and gives Lebanon's growing Muslim community a greater share in power.

Mr Geagea's new position came after two months of warfare against General Michel Aoun's rival forces in the Christian enclave of central Lebanon. About 850 people have been killed and well over 3,200 others wounded since fighting broke out at the end of January.

"The solution lies in recognizing the authority of President Hrawi and viewing the Taif accord as a gateway for a comprehensive settlement," Mr Geagea said in a radio interview here.

General Aoun, who opposes the Taif accord, expressed outrage over Mr Geagea's declaration.

He has dismissed the election of President Hrawi under the Taif accord as "invalid" and outlawed all Christian and Muslim parliamentarians who worked out the agreement.

Marcos plunder claim

New York

THE prosecutor in the racketeering trial of Mrs Imelda Marcos, the former first lady of the Philippines, said yesterday she had plundered her country and used its main bank as a "personal piggy bank".

In opening statements in the trial, Mrs Debra Livingston, a US assistant attorney, said the case involved \$140 million (\$27.5 million) of stolen money illegally brought to the United States to buy four Manhattan buildings.

"This is a case of theft, fraud, and deceit on an incredible scale," Mrs Livingston told a packed US District Court. She said of the way Mrs Marcos used the New York branch of the Philippine national bank: "She cracked it open and had bundles of cash delivered to her so that she could buy artworks and jewels."

Mrs Marcos, who denies the allegations, is charged with four counts of racketeering, fraud and obstruction of justice which could jail her for 50 years if she is convicted.

Mrs Marcos, dressed in black, chuckled a rosy to her bosom and at times looked near to tears as the prosecutor outlined the case against her.

Mrs Livingston said Mrs Marcos and her late husband, Ferdinand, illegally exported millions of dollars.

As well as the charges involving stolen money, Mrs Marcos is accused of fraudulently obtaining \$165 million in bank loans in the United States.

Gadafi tells Jews to emigrate to Alaska

Nicosia
COLONEL Qaddafi, the Libyan leader, said yesterday that Jewish emigrants could go to Alaska if they wished — but not to Israel.

"Solving the problem of Jews lies in their remaining in their present countries and no state can be established on a religious basis," he said.

Colonel Qaddafi's thoughts on Jewish emigrants were given in a message to an Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) conference being held in Nicosia.

"Otherwise, we propose an alternative homeland for them in the Baltic republics,

Alaska, Alsace-Lorraine or on the Volga River. These are Jewish areas, not Palestine," he said in the message.

"By what right are Jews emigrating from their countries to Palestine? If the Jews are being persecuted in their countries this does not give them the right to persecute other people, namely the Palestinians," he said.

About half-a-million Soviet Jews are expected to move to Israel over the next few years. Arab states fear they will be settled in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza strip to the detriment of Palestinian residents.

(Reuters)

Preacher testifies on murders

Papeete — A woman lay preacher accused of moral responsibility for the murder of six French Polynesians thought to be possessed by the devil told a court her sermons had been misinterpreted.

Mme Sylvia Alexandre, aged 56, was giving evidence at the trial here of 24 inhabitants of Papeete island charged with burning to death four men and two women in 1987 in a fit of religious hysteria after a visit by Mme Alexandre and two other women.

(AFP)

Soldier freed

Columbo — Wijayamuni Rohana de Silva, aged 24, the Sri Lankan sailor jailed for striking Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the former Indian Prime Minister, with a rifle in 1987, has been freed by presidential order after serving 18 months of a six-year sentence.

(Reuters)

Child record

Ras al Khaymah — Mr Salim Juma, from this small Arab emirate, is trying to set a Gulf record by fathering 30 children. He already has 32 by eight women; another three are expected.

(Reuters)

Crime wave

Copenhagen — Two Danish waiters were shot dead in Noul, Greenland's capital, taking the death toll in a crime wave in this vast Arctic territory this year to 12.

(Reuters)

Coup arrests

Kabul — The Afghan Government has so far arrested 623 people over last month's abortive coup attempt, a minister said here.

(AFP)

Up in smoke

Douai — A court in this northern French city granted a divorce to Mme Jeanine Hochepeid, whose sole complaint was that her husband smoked unrestrainedly during 36 years of marriage without regard for her clearly fragile health.

Peking poised to adopt Basic Law

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Editor

CHINA is expected to finalize the future constitution of Hong Kong today, ending three years of often fierce arguments over the way six million people will be governed after Britain hands over power.

Once the National People's Congress has adopted the Basic Law, as China calls the Hong Kong constitution, no further alterations will be possible. The final document reflects the results of a long consultation period.

Its adoption will coincide with the publication in Britain of the Government's Nationalities Bill, providing for key Hong Kong people to be given British passports. The Basic Law was drawn up by a committee which included members from Hong Kong, and was also influenced by lobbying by the Hong Kong and British Governments.

Taken as a whole, it reflects the spirit of the 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration, under which China agreed that Hong Kong should remain a free-market enclave with its own government for at least 50 years from 1997.

However, Hong Kong and Britain have failed to persuade Peking to drop some clauses which have aroused concern, including the fact that ultimate power to interpret the constitution will lie in Peking rather than Hong Kong.

There is resentment in Hong Kong that China will have the right to station its troops there, though the British Government does not contest this.

The Basic Law's limited provisions for direct elections fall far short of demands made last year by Hong Kong's legislators, but are an improvement on the present constitution under British rule.

Britain has occupied Hong Kong since the Opium War of 1842, without introducing Westminster-style democracy. The first direct elections will not take place until next year, and will involve only 18 of the

56 members of the Legislative Council. They will be followed in 1995 by the last elections under British rule, in which at least 20 will be directly elected out of a larger, 60-seat legislature.

It has been agreed that the last Legislative Council under British rule will also be the first under Chinese rule and will continue until 1999.

In a concession won by the British Embassy in Peking in February this year, China agreed that up to 12 members of the Council can be dual-nationality Chinese-British citizens.

Mr Francis Maude, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, will fly to Hong Kong on Friday for talks with a wide range of people.

He is expected to face a barrage of questions about the Nationalities Bill, but will also try to calm anxieties about the Basic Law.

The British Government sees it as satisfactory, but some Hong Kong Chinese doubt that Peking will fully respect it.

Trump takes a gamble with minareted monster

From Charles Bremner New York

IMAGINE the Brighton pavilion if Walt Disney had been given a billion dollars to build it and you have an inkling of the scale of America's latest exercise in excess — the tycoon Mr Donald Trump's Taj Mahal Casino in Atlantic City.

Some 2,000 news people are flocking to the dingy shores of New Jersey tonight for the grand opening of the gargantuan gaming palace whose like, its owner proclaims, has never been seen.

"It's the eighth wonder of the world... unique," the New York mega-developer announced in a rush of appearances ahead of the inauguration of his 17-acre extravaganza. The oriental-style riot of minarets, trumpeting elephants and pink Arabian nights plush is so big

that four QE2s could berth in it. Mr Trump has pronounced on national television that his hugely publicised separation and legal battle with his wife had been good for business. "It brings people, maybe for the wrong reasons... nevertheless, the controversy probably is not a negative thing in terms of... a business."

On Monday, when the public was allowed in for a trial fluster under the eyes of New Jersey gaming inspectors, Mr Trump jumped for joy. "This is beyond my wildest imagination," he said. "I can't believe the number of people here."

In February, the Trump organization began drumming up publicity by announcing that Miss Maria Maples, the Other Woman, also known as the Georgia Peach, had been graced with an invitation for the christening ceremony. The gos-

sip columnists had a field day, although, in the event, Miss Maples was not even invited to the ceremony. The Doonesbury cartoon strip, syndicated around the country, had spent a week imagining her presiding at the Taj Mahal opening.

Miss Maples subsequently issued a graceful press statement saying she understood perfectly why she had not been invited.

Yesterday, the New York Post challenged the soap opera star: "Was the Trump split a hoax, was it all just a big publicity stunt?"

The newspaper claimed to have found a "source close to Donald" who suggested that Mrs Ivana Trump would drop her multi-billion dollar suit and return to her husband once the casino opened. Mr Trump, who has made no secret of the extent to which he relishes the publicity

surrounding his divorce, is himself gambling for high stakes with the Taj Mahal, a confection that one critic described as the product of a "candy-maker gone mad".

Experts in the business say the underkind property developer may have over-reached himself this time: the Taj Mahal is opening at a time when the casino-hotel industry is struggling, particularly in Atlantic City, a decaying resort that was given a new lease of life when gambling was legalized there in the 1970s.

The arrival of the Taj, with its 1,250 hotel rooms, adds 20 per cent capacity to a local casino business that already includes two other Trump gaming houses. The experts say Mr Trump will be struggling to clear the million dollars a day that the new monster must make just to

break even. Mr Trump has been fighting behind the scenes to undo such negative thinking. Under the threat of lawsuits, he managed, among other things, to persuade a Philadelphia firm to sack a respected analyst who told the Wall Street Journal that Atlantic City was "an ugly and dreary kind of place".

However, New York's self-proclaimed greatest deal-maker could draw comfort yesterday from a poll that showed that no fewer than 42 per cent of his fellow citizens held a favourable opinion of him. The Gallup organization found that only 36 per cent did not like him. "It seems to show his name is bigger than ever," a spokesman said.

Surprisingly, a full 14 per cent of the citizens of the Big Apple said they had never heard of Maria Maples.

Mandela welcomes troops for townships

Pietermaritzburg
MR NELSON Mandela, the black nationalist leader, yesterday welcomed President de Klerk's decision to send troops to pacify South Africa's black townships, but demanded government consultation.

After visiting scenes of some of the bloodiest fighting in townships around the white city of Pietermaritzburg, Mr Mandela told a news conference: "We welcome the measures which the President has implemented... but there are serious problems. A unilateral action on the part of the Government without consultation with black leaders is bound to be ineffective, no matter the merits."

President de Klerk announced on Monday that he had ordered more troops and police into black areas to quell violence that has claimed more than 400 lives since Mr Mandela, the most prominent black leader, was freed and his African National Congress (ANC) and other opposition groups were legalized two months ago.

Mr Mandela demanded the removal of the head of South Africa's police, saying he was "unco-operative and has no sympathy for black aspirations". He mentioned no names, but was assumed to be referring to Mr Adrian Vlok, the hardline Law and Order Minister, whose portfolio includes responsibility for police.

"We can see no solution until the man has been removed from that position," Mr Mandela said.

He refused to say whether he would demand the minister's dismissal when he meets Mr de Klerk in Cape Town tomorrow for talks expected to centre on township violence and on the ANC's suspension of exploration discussions with the Government on South Africa's future.

The long-awaited "talks about talks", due to have begun on April 11, were called

off by the ANC in protest against the killing of up to 17 black demonstrators by police in the Johannesburg township of Sebokeng last week.

The ANC accuses white-led security forces of inciting unrest in the teeming townships and homelands where most blacks live. White officials counter that black leaders appear incapable of controlling radical supporters.

Police yesterday reported two more killings in Natal, where supporters of the ANC-affiliated United Democratic Front (UDF) are fighting the Zulu Chief Mangosuthu Buthe's Inkatha movement. The victims included a special police constable who was decapitated.

Police listed 11 hacked or burnt bodies recovered from weekend fighting between gangs of thousands, armed with automatic weapons, spears and slashing knives called pangas. At least 60 people have been killed in the past week.

Reporters in the area yesterday said steel-helmeted white troops patrolled some of the worst-hit townships, but police said the reinforcements ordered by President de Klerk had yet to arrive. Authorities said the townships were tense but under control.

Mr Mandela, ending a two-day tour of townships, said he saw the shot and burnt body of a man buried under debris in the township of Imbali on Monday night.

The President's tough action against unrest has been welcomed by whites.

Share prices on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange, in a tailspin partly because of the violence, were helped yesterday by the security measures.

● LUSAKA: Nine ANC guerrillas who escaped from prison in South Africa on February 18 have turned up at their movement's headquarters in Zambia (Reuters reports). ANC officials showed the group briefly to journalists yesterday. (Reuter)

Hawke begins fourth term with cabinet reshuffle

From Robert Cockburn, Sydney

MR BOB Hawke, the Australian Prime Minister, yesterday warned Australians of tough years ahead when he announced sweeping ministerial changes after last week's narrow election victory.

The defeated opposition Liberal Party also voted in Dr John Hewson as its new leader to replace Mr Andrew Peacock, who resigned after the election. An economist, with relatively little political experience, Dr Hewson now faces the task of rebuilding the demoralized party.

Mr Hawke begins his record fourth term as Prime Minister by retaining Mr Paul Keating as Deputy Prime Minister and Treasurer. In spite of Mr

Hawke's election promises to lead the party into the next election, it is widely felt that he will hand over to Mr Keating well before then.

In the first big ministerial shake-up of the Labor Government in seven years, Mr Hawke tried to satisfy various party factions. Mr Simon Crean, former trades union leader, finds himself Minister of Science after only eight days as an MP in Parliament. Environmental groups, who played a crucial role in securing this Labor victory, may well feel disappointed in the surprise appointment of Ms Rosalind Kelly, a right-winger, as Environment Minister.

Mr John Kerin the controversial Primary Industry and Energy minister, who has often clashed with the Green lobby over mining issues, retains his post. Mr Kim Beazley, the Defence Minister, is moved to Telecommunications. He is replaced by Mr Robert Ray, whose former post at the Immigration Ministry goes to Mr Gerry Hand, a left-winger. Mr Ralph Willis is the new Minister for Finance and Mr Michael Duffy takes over as Attorney-General.

After four successive electoral defeats, the Liberals are desperate to end fractious infighting between old timers like Mr Peacock and Mr John Howard, the former leader, in a search for new blood to revitalize the party in the 1990s. Dr Hewson, aged 43, an ambitious economist, has suddenly therefore found himself leader of the Liberal Party after just three years in Parliament.

Born into a working class family, the son of a fitter and turner, colleagues describe him as a man of the 'eighties, an arch-Yuppie driven by the will to succeed. That includes a penchant for driving his prized collection of exotic foreign cars, including a Ferrari, a Rolls-Royce and a Jaguar.

These are now considered potential embarrassments should he ever have to ask Australians to curb their purchases of imported goods to save the hard-pressed economy. Dr Hewson graduated from Sydney University and received his doctorate in the US at the John Hopkins University for a thesis on European exchange rates.

Perilous voyage ends safely

Using only a school atlas and the stars to chart his course, the captain of a battered old 60ft boat brought 118 people safely from Cambodia to Australia's north-western shores.

His extraordinary story was revealed yesterday by Lieutenant-Commander Glenn Robinson, commanding HMAS Bunbury, the Australian patrol vessel which escorted the rusting little boat into the pearling port of Broome, some 2,000 miles north of here.

Commander Robinson said the captain was lucky there were clear skies so that he could see the stars, since the boat had sailed through an area dotted with reefs. It is also frequented by Indonesian pirates.

The commander said that he went on board the tiny vessel. "I certainly wouldn't say it was seaworthy," he said. "There were problems with the cooling system and it could maintain only about seven knots." The vessel was also leaking. Pipes were rusty and there were gaps in her planking. The Australian authorities sighted the boat last weekend and sent the Bunbury to escort it down the coast to Broome.

The 70 men, 30 women and 18 children on board claimed they had left Cambodia on March 11. (AFP)

Bombs rock Greek cities in run-up to poll



POLICE officers examining the wreckage outside the Federation of Greek Industries building in Athens, a target in one of five bomb attacks, within 20 minutes of each other, which rocked the capital and Salonika, the country's second biggest city, in the early hours of yesterday. A police officer, aged 30, who

was cut by flying glass as he patrolled his beat, was the only person injured in the blasts. (A Correspondent writes from Athens). Two terrorist groups claimed responsibility for the time-bomb attacks, which came days before Greek voters go to the polls in general elections on Sunday. The National Economy

Ministry and the General Confederation of Greek Workers buildings were also damaged in Athens. In Salonika, the Federation of Northern Greek Industries was the prime target, but the windows of nearby houses and shops were shattered by the blast. Anonymous callers telephoned leading newspapers in

both Athens and Salonika to claim responsibility for the attacks on behalf of the "May 1" urban guerrilla movement and the "Revolutionary Popular Struggle", but gave no motive. The two groups have carried out a series of bomb attacks in the past, mainly on government buildings, police stations and big foreign and

Greek businesses. "May 1" also claimed responsibility for the assassination of a public prosecutor in January last year. A week ago "November 17", another group, blew up the cars of 14 diplomats in Athens. After yesterday's bombings, Mr Xenophon Zolotas, the interim Prime Minister, appealed for calm.

US court blocks execution

From Martin Fletcher
Washington

THE United States Supreme Court refused to allow the state of California to carry out its first execution in 23 years yesterday, but in so doing added to the mounting pressure for a streamlined appeals process for death row prisoners.

On Monday night, it upheld a court order blocking the execution of Robert Alton Harris for murdering two teenage boys on the grounds that he may have received inadequate psychiatric evaluation at his trial in 1979.

He was due to go to the gas chamber in San Francisco's San Quentin prison at 3.00am yesterday, but a three-judge panel will now decide whether his case should be returned to San Diego's District Court.

Harris has been on death row for 11 years, exceeding the eight-year average for the 121 Americans executed since the death penalty was restored in 1976. He has appealed under habeas corpus eight times, and the Supreme Court has heard his case four times.

Mr William Rehnquist, the US Chief Justice, last year urged Congress to limit the number of habeas corpus appeals permitted, but he was rebuffed by the Judicial Conference.

The debate will now move to Capitol Hill, where conservatives want to amend the law to prevent multiple appeals from "death row" inmates.

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FINANCIAL TIMES

Tuesday April 3 1990

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SUMMARY

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Telephone users over-charged by world cartel operation

By Hugo Dixon

TELEPHONE users around the world are being over-charged by more than \$10bn (\$5.1bn) a year for making international phone calls as a result of cartel-like arrangements between the world's phone companies which keep prices at an artificially high level.

This is the main conclusion of a Financial Times investigation into how the world's leading telephone companies set charges for international calls at well above their costs.

These include British Telecom, American Telephone & Telegraph (AT&T), the West German Bundespost and most of their counterparts in other countries.

The cartel, based on an obscure set of accounting practices which determines how revenue from interna-

tional calls is shared, is organised within a framework agreed at the CITT, the Geneva based grouping of phone companies.

Although the location of meetings in Geneva, the location of meetings switches from one capital city to another.

Bilateral meetings to determine details such as accounting rates, prices and the number of circuits between two countries take place on average every three years.

The system of rates, which are usually agreed in bilateral negotiations between national telephone companies, penalises operators which cut prices and detours higher volumes of phone traffic, according to a confidential OECD report prepared last year.

The cartel, which has the tacit approval of most governments, was established before the Second World War. But in the last decade a gap has opened between the cartel's prices and the costs of making international calls.

Telephone companies argue that high costs justify high prices for international calls. However, telecommunications experts say advances in fibre-optic cables, and other technology, mean that international calls should not cost much more than domestic calls.

Some examples of artificially high prices:

• A call from the UK to the US should cost about the same as a long-distance call in the UK and only

25 per cent more than a local call, says Mr Nick Williams, a telecommunications consultant at Touche Ross, the accountants in London. In fact, a call from the UK to the US is charged at five times the local rate.

• A peak-rate call from New York to Los Angeles is charged at 25¢ a minute, but at 94¢ from New York to London, the same distance.

• A peak-rate call from London to Paris is charged at three times the 15p a minute rate for a call from London to Birmingham.

International prices have fallen in recent years, but not nearly as quickly as underlying costs. The companies are still charging an average of \$1 a minute for international calls, while telecommunications experts

estimate the true cost is between 20¢ and 50¢, implying a mark-up of between 100 and 200 per cent.

Mr Gray, a Washington DC consultant to the International Telecommunications Union, estimates that the world's telephone users will make 30bn minutes of international phone calls this year, generating \$10bn in revenue and \$10bn in profits for the phone companies a year.

The cost of international circuits has fallen sharply in recent years. According to the US Federal Communications Commission, the cost per minute of using a transatlantic cable fell from \$2.50 in 1960 to 4¢ in 1980, and about fell to 2¢ in 1985.

Mr David Tudge, deputy director of the OECD, says: "Continued on Page 22. Reconnecting charges, Page 20."

NOT ALL OF THEM.



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Who falls in the balance of the West's firepower?

As the Soviet empire crumbles, and a threat of attack by the massed armour Warsaw Pact becomes almost inconceivable, the West is having to rethink its military strategies. Is there still a case for developing the robot infantryman and the mine that listens for the engine note of one of Moscow's tanks when the next war might be fought against Third World guerrillas? Michael Evans looks at the arguments and the implications for Britain's armed forces

AFTER five years of Gorbachev, and with the mothballing of the Cold War, it is difficult to assess who now is our enemy. To deter you need a visible capability to fight one. But a war with whom? Who is to be deterred in five or 10 years' time? If not the Soviet Union, will it be Gaddafi, or an empire-building Ayatollah?

This is the dilemma now facing the Ministry of Defence in its examination of the options for changing defence strategy. On Monday Mr Tom King, the Secretary of State for Defence, admitted in his White Paper that there were now opportunities to "look afresh" at Britain's defence posture, "to make it well fitted for the new security setting". It is not simply a question of the deployment of troops, warships and fighter aircraft; it is also a question of what role they are supposed to play and the equipment they will need. The latter issue will become increasingly important as Nato seeks to cut spending. Weapons will have to be cost-effective and relevant. But what is relevant?

A number of American and European companies, for example, have been secretly researching into "laser rifles" for the infantry. At present a laser device is so heavy it needs a 10-ton truck to carry it around. The concept for the future — perhaps 40 years from now — is a miniaturized, man-portable version capable of being fired from the shoulder. But, as Ian Hogg, editor of *Jane's Infantry Weapons*, says: "There is not much point in developing a laser rifle to fight a bush war in Zambia."

That comment raises a whole area of new questions. Billions of dollars are spent every year in the West on research and development of new weapon systems. Everything has been geared to keeping one step ahead of the Soviet Union.

For example, the United States for years has been trying to develop an advanced combat rifle, using clusters of darts which would give a much better chance of hitting the target than bullets. Battlefield robots equipped with sensors and reconnaissance cameras are also being developed to take over some of the roles of the infantryman, such as firing anti-tank rockets.

"Intelligent" ammunition which can seek out enemy armour is being developed, too, primarily to be directed at

the first wave of Warsaw Pact massed armour and tanks. "Smart" mines would be programmed to recognize the noise "signatures" of particular types of vehicle. Inevitably the armour for which they are being designed would be Soviet.

Then there is the awesome Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS), an American weapon which fires conventional, high-speed rockets from the back of a tracked vehicle, capable of destroying a tank by attacking from above, using explosively formed "penetrator slugs". The system can saturate one sq km at mid-range with more than two tons of high explosive. The British Army has ordered 71 MLRS for deployment in Germany at a cost of about £600 million.

But if the Third World War is no longer even a remote possibility, will the money now being spent on such weapons be justified when the potential enemy may be guerrillas waging war from the hills? The American Congressman Les Aspin, chairman of the House of Representatives Armed Services Committee, has suggested one answer: R & D of hi-tech weapons should continue, but production should be put on hold.

British military chiefs say it is vital to keep modernizing weapons, both for deterrence in an era when eastern Europe and the Soviet Union will be increasingly unstable and, theoretically, to counter any Third World country which might turn aggressor, equipped with the latest Soviet systems.

The key to the future has to be flexibility, the ability to carry out military tasks in different parts of the world — both in Europe's central front and in non-Nato areas — without major changes in equipment, weapons or personnel. Some British Government ministers have apparently talked about "force projection" — Royal Navy aircraft carriers steaming around the globe ready to leap into the fray when called upon.

It seems doubtful that Britain will be in a position to throw its weight around the world. Nevertheless, we retain defence commitments in far-off places, and if savings can be made from the £4.3 billion spent on the British Army of the Rhine and RAF Germany, the smaller, leaner services could be adapted to take more

account of these responsibilities. In the US, the focus of Pentagon planners has already switched to so-called Low Intensity Conflicts, or "wars for all seasons" as some military strategists call it. It is not the Third World War but Third World revolution which is seen as the gravest risk.

In *Low Intensity Warfare*, Michael Klare and Peter Kornbluh wrote: "There is a consensus among policy makers and military planners that the US has been preparing for an unlikely war in Europe while the real war for the Third World has gone unattended."

But the Pentagon now has detailed contingency plans for military intervention in many potential hot spots, such as Central America, the Philippines and Lebanon, because of the American hostages held there. This is why the US Special Operations Forces have been significantly expanded, including the US Army's Green Berets, the Navy's Seals (similar to the Royal Marines' Special Boat Squadron), Delta Force (founded in the image of the SAS and used in the Panama invasion) and the US Army's Task Force 160, the secret unit of "Night Stalker" assault helicopters (motor: Death

Wings in the Dark). Huge transport aircraft and engine-propelled parachutes are being developed. Under the same heading of Low Intensity Conflict, the US has formed five light infantry divisions (four on active duty, one in reserve), trained for conflicts outside the European theatre, where the emphasis is on rapid airborne deployment, secrecy, stealth and precise co-ordination. The 82nd Airborne Division, one of the four active light infantry divisions, was sent to Panama. The concept of power projection forces that could be sent anywhere in the world was seized on by President Reagan during his administration. In 1986, for example, the US deployed 13 "maritime prepositioning ships" (MPS) around the globe, floating warehouses filled with everything from tanks to laundry paper.

For Britain, the Falklands conflict underlined then, and doubly so today, the need for an air force that has extended range. So both transport aircraft and combat fighters will have to be built with more lift and more range. There are already new possibilities

because of emerging technologies. By the end of the century, for example, the satellite-based Navstar Global Positioning System will give navigational accuracies between 10 and 20 metres worldwide.

Whether or not Britain will be able to afford an increased out-of-area role, it is clear that this is one option the Government is considering. In the post-Cold War era, Britain may need to project military power in unpredictable areas, such as the Middle East or Africa, avoiding countries

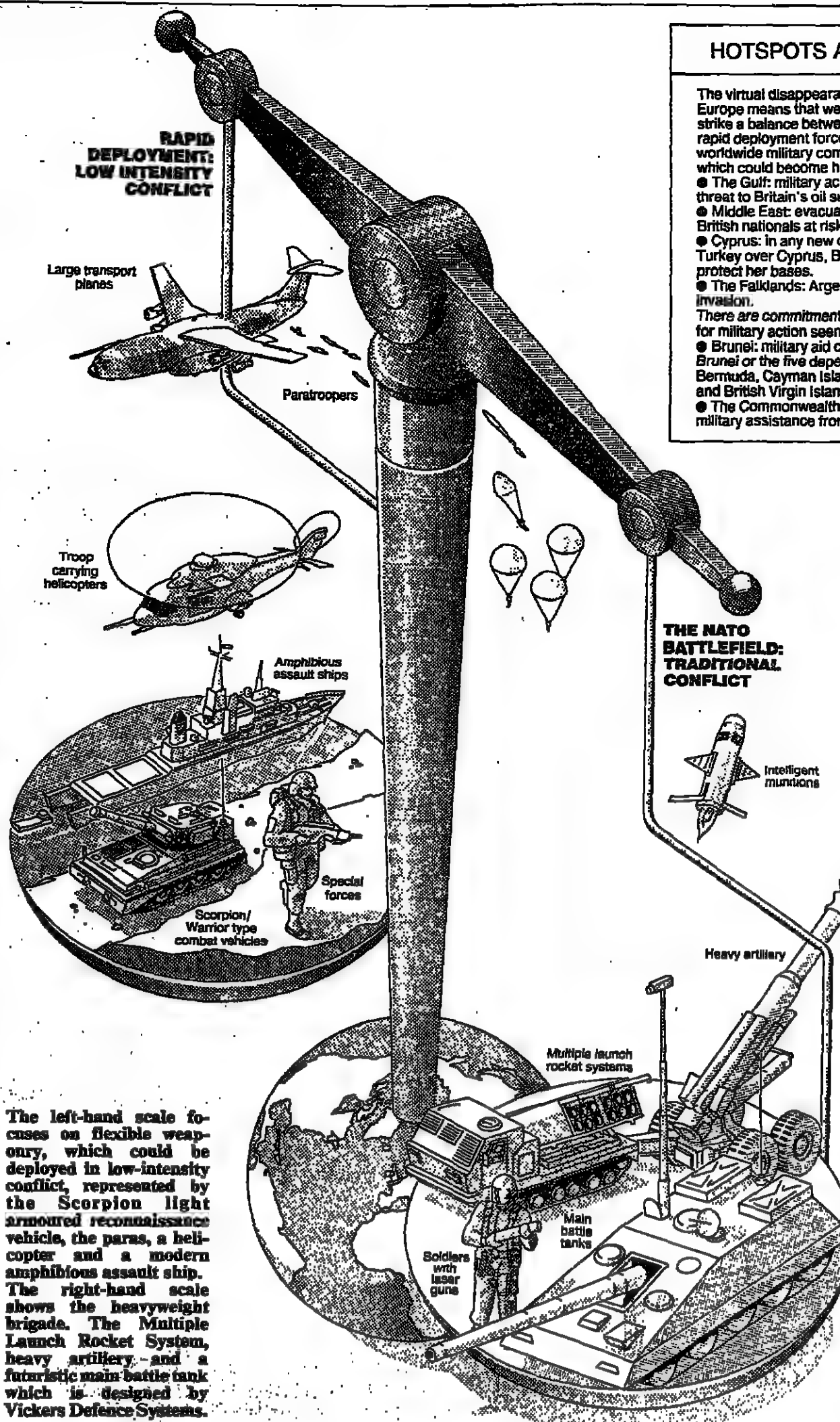
which may refuse diplomatic clearance for overflight. With five TriStar wide-bodied jets, used for both air-to-air refuelling and troop/freight transport, plus 21 Hercules aircraft, the RAF could deploy 1,600 paratroopers of 5 Airborne Brigade; and their ground support; and a fighter squadron for top cover and ground attack, some 3,000 miles non-stop. That would take them to the Middle East or Africa within seven days.

Even though the emphasis will be on flexibility and mobility — and most major warships, aircraft and helicopters could be described as flexible — it will not mean the death of the tank.

Although the weapon with a guaranteed future is the helicopter, because of its troop-carrying capacity and ground support role, there is one mission which only the tank can fulfil — the taking and holding of territory.

The tank of the future will have to be lighter, faster and lower. A design study for the mid-21st century by Vickers Defence Systems, of Leeds,

The left-hand scale focuses on flexible weaponry, which could be deployed in low-intensity conflict, represented by the Scorpion light armoured reconnaissance vehicle, the paras, a helicopter and a modern amphibious assault ship. The right-hand scale shows the heavyweight brigade. The Multiple Launch Rocket System, heavy artillery, and a futuristic main battle tank which is designed by Vickers Defence Systems.



HOTSPOTS ACROSS THE WORLD

The virtual disappearance of the threat from eastern Europe means that western military strategists will have to strike a balance between traditional hardware and new, rapid deployment forces. At the same time, Britain has worldwide military commitments to a number of areas which could become hotspots.

- The Gulf: military action could be needed if there was a threat to Britain's oil supplies.
- Middle East: evacuation contingencies for rescuing British nationals at risk from unstable regimes.
- Cyprus: in any new conflict between Greece and Turkey over Cyprus, Britain might have to intervene to protect her bases.
- The Falklands: Argentina might attempt a second invasion.
- There are commitments to other areas, although the need for military action seems extremely unlikely.
- Brunei: military aid could be requested by the Sultan of Brunei or the five dependencies in the West Indies, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Turks and Caicos, Montserrat and British Virgin Islands.
- The Commonwealth: a member could appeal for military assistance from Britain.

Facing the firing line

If Britain no longer has to plan for an East-West war, some elements of the three armed services will be vulnerable to cutbacks:

● Tank regiments: 13, of which 12 are in Germany. Even if a reunified Germany allows British tank regiments to stay, there will be only a residual force. There will be a fierce struggle over which regiments should be disbanded first. Seven of them are equipped with the old Chieftain tank — the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards, 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars, 1st Royal Tank Regiment and 4th Royal Tank Regiment, all in Germany; and Royal Hussars and Queen's Royal Irish Hussars, based in Britain. They will bitterly resist any argument that they should go first because they have old equipment.

● Artillery regiments: 18, of which 12 are in Germany. All equipped with heavy armaments, either self-propelled artillery or (in the future) Multiple Launch Rocket Systems or Lance short-range nuclear missiles. None of these weapons would have an obvious role out of the European theatre.

● Infantry regiments: less vulnerable because of their greater flexibility. But the future of the Gurkhas may have to be examined.

● RAF squadrons: there are 13 aircraft and two helicopter squadrons in Germany. Several squadrons could become vulnerable but Harrier aircraft, helicopters and the European Fighter Aircraft programme are likely to survive.

● Royal Navy: less threatened than other services because it has a number of peacetime roles — Type 21 frigates, for example, are ideal for helping after earthquakes and patrols in the West Indies. Type 23 frigates and nuclear-powered hunter-killer submarines were built with the Soviets in mind, but there will still be a need for anti-submarine patrols. A new type of ship might be needed which would be a cross between a frigate and an offshore patrol vessel to be deployed in Britain's own backyard.

How green stays our valley

ASK members of the Kirkstall Valley Campaign how green their valley is and they'll tell you it's pretty green. It doesn't have to be perfect for locals to object to its obliteration by two superstores, 5,000 car-parking spaces and The Lost World of The Dinosaur.

The River Aire flowing into Leeds is no Hampshire chalk stream, flowing as clear as gin. By the time it gets past Bradford it is heavily polluted, and as it flows through the suburbs of Kirkstall and Burley its valley bears the unmistakable scars of the Industrial Revolution. There are old woollen mills, brick walls and lumps of cast iron; a canal and a railway; and the ash tips of a disused power station.

But the mills, though dark, are far from satanic: the classical simplicity of their millstone grit architecture is pleasing. The Leeds-Liverpool canal is full of fish and the ash tips are grassed over.

More, the whole valley is full of green spaces, allotments, playing fields and scrub run wild. There is a large island in the middle of the river, and its steep-sided half-mile

In the heart of industrial Yorkshire, a community rallies to save its valley from becoming a concrete carpark with playground for plastic dinosaurs

width allows for sweeping views. Seen closer, it teems with wildlife. White-throats breed in the bushes, and kingfishers by the canal. Goat's rue and wild pansy grow on the valley floor, common blues and small skippers are amongst the butterflies. It is an area dearly loved by those whose lives it forms part of.

Two years ago Leeds City Council and a property company announced that they proposed to set most of it in concrete under a £70 million redevelopment plan for the two superstores, a business park and car parking, with a museum of plastic dinosaurs as the cherry on the cake.

The response from local people was to form an action group, the Kirkstall Valley Campaign. They offered more than public meetings



and determined opposition. After many months of effort, they offered their own development plan. It embraced the whole community and it took in the whole valley in its vision. The open spaces could all be kept, the campaigners said, along with the old mills, the mill stream and the allotments whose rich soil would have been a car park — and yet industry could be brought in, jobs created and housing provided. The plan shows how.

"We're not opposed to development, but the valley is a green space coming right into the city centre from the countryside, and we want to keep it," said the

campaign secretary, Mrs Linda Raine.

The plan may play a key role in the future of the valley as the original scheme for superstores has now been abandoned and the fate of the valley lies in the hands of the Leeds Urban Development Corporation, who will formally take the Kirkstall views into consideration before announcing their own proposals later this spring.

But its real importance may lie in a context wider than that of West Yorkshire. Much of the anger felt against postwar planners and developers has perhaps stemmed from the inability of people living in places that are, by National Trust standards, nothing special, to articulate just why these places are special to them.

In the inner city of Leeds they are showing it can be done.

Michael McCarthy

● The Kirkstall Valley Campaign will be featured on BBC Radio 4's PM tonight, from 5pm. Details of how readers and listeners can vote for the winner of the £5,000 award will be given in The Times and on PM at the end of the week.



Protector: Linda Raine, of Kirkstall Valley Campaign, which offers its own development plan

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TIMES DIARY

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

Lord Young of Graffham has emphatically denied reports that he is about to quit as Tory party deputy chairman after falling out with Kenneth Baker, the chairman. He told me: "I am at Conservative Central Office because I was there at the last general election, and I intend to be there at the next." Young has known Baker since 1981, and in that time "I can honestly say we have not had any disagreement." The speculation seems to have begun with the news that Sir Geoffrey Patte, the former



Young: mixed messages

information minister, has been appointed a party vice-chairman with special responsibility for liaising with parties in Eastern Europe. But yesterday Central Office itself seemed to think that Lord Young was about to go, saying that he wanted to resume his career in the City.

Sir Charles Irving brought a smile to the Prime Minister's face when he presented her with an early Easter egg before the Conservative Central Council meeting in his constituency at the weekend. "It was not just any old Easter egg the likes of which you can buy in Harrods," says Sir Charles, who bought his at the Commons souvenir kiosk, of which he is in charge. But at £7 a throw, a chocolate egg needs to be a little bit special, and I hear that sales are not going too well. One MP was overheard angrily arguing with kiosk staff about the exorbitant price. Your diarist was much too polite to wait to see whether he eventually made a purchase.

Why was *The Times* just about the only newspaper not to publish Mrs Thatcher's irresistible line last week that Norman Tebbit's intervention in the leadership stakes would mean "civil war" in the Tory party? The story was the lead item on BBC Radio Four's *The World at One* on Friday and was repeated widely in the national press the following morning. In fact, although the story appeared to have come from an impeccable source who had shared a dinner table with Mrs Thatcher at the Kingswater conference in Cambridge, the words never passed the Prime Minister's lips — indeed, Mrs Thatcher and her fellow dinner guests were unaware of Mr Tebbit's comments until after they had left the dinner. The civil war remark was the following morning by a former net minister who had also attended the dinner. By such misquotation is history, and "Thatcher predicts civil war" looks set to join Jim Callaghan's "Crisis? What crisis?" in the pantheon of famous prime ministerial phrases that never were.

MPs spend much of their time haying for each other's blood, but it appears that they cannot stand the sight of their own. Only one has volunteered for the next donor session, due to be held at the Treasury later this month. It is not clear whether blue or red blood has been pledged.

I took particular sensitivity to feel the tremors of Monday's Wrexham-centred earthquake in the heart of London, but one of those who claims to have done so is Colin Moynihan, the Sports Minister, who doubles as minister for earthquakes. This little-known part of Moynihan's portfolio was revealed here last November, when he answered a parliamentary question about



Moynihan: fine antennae

the number of earthquakes in Britain in the past 10 years. Moynihan claimed to have experienced the shock to his system after lunching with a group of civil engineers, but he had difficulty convincing his staff at the Department of the Environment. "None of us believed him at first," one said. "We thought he was taking his responsibilities a little too far."

MPs and guests in the Commons' most exclusive dining room, the Harcourt, were dined to bread and cheese after a kitchen convector fan blew up minutes after they had ordered, and staff refused to prepare hot food until it was repaired. I hope that after their frugal repast, the diners were not presented with the customary £30-a-head bill.

East Berlin

To try, as a foreigner, to buy a train ticket in Ostmarks these days is to realize that this is no ordinary currency. For a start you have to tell your life story to the booking clerk, as those in the queue behind mumble that "Ostmarks are for East Germans". Those who cannot produce proof of East German citizenship are asked to pay in West German marks. Then the exchange-rate haggling starts.

The clerk at the Friedrichstrasse station whimsically proclaims that a residence permit entitles the traveller to a rate of DM1 to 3 Ostmarks, but an outsider will be asked to pay at the absurd rate of one for one.

In trade, on the other hand, the East Germans, desperate to export anything to anyone, work at a rate of 1DM to 4.2 Ostmarks, and tourists can exchange officially at one to three. No one is sure what this may mean, but the natives refer disdainfully to their currency as "aluminium chips" or "shrapnel".

The best source of information on the true state of the beleaguered currency is the gaggle of East German tourists obstructing the entrance to the Bahnhof Zoo station in West

Anne McElvoy on the muddle over German currency exchange

Marksmanship off target

Berlin. With a flexibility never attained by the country's economists, they respond to the latest tremor on the Richter scale of rumour, lowering and raising the black-market rate almost daily in line with events in East Berlin and Bonn.

In the heady November days when the border opened, the rate soared to DM1 to 11 Ostmarks as East Germans, dazzled by consumer goods they had never seen, left their prudence at home and bought up every banana and chocolate bar they could find in West Berlin.

The current, more sober consensus is a one-to-five exchange rate with special deals for large transactions. And large transactions there are a plenty, as speculators shift wads of 100-mark notes bearing the grim visage of Karl Marx into their inside pockets to reimport illegally into the East.

At this rate, a meal with wine in one of East Berlin's top

restaurants costs a mere £4, and judicious plundering of the better stocked food-stores can buy you a full basket of groceries and alcohol for a fraction of the price in the West. The result is that the people of the wealthiest nation in Western Europe have taken to popping over the border to root around in grimy supermarkets.

With the constant flow of border traffic, customs officials admit that they are powerless to prevent infringements. They have confiscated 3.2 million Ostmarks at the border since the beginning of the year, but they readily admit that this is a mere fraction of the problem. As long as the uncertainty about the terms and date of currency union continues, so will the speculation.

Big operators bribe East German relatives and friends to deposit huge sums of illegally gotten Ostmarks in bank accounts, in the hope that they will be converted into Deutschmarks

when the currencies are unified. So many have done this in the last few weeks that some West Berlin banks have been running out of Ostmarks.

Such speculation is understandable given the Bundesbank's suggestion this week of a rate of DM1 to 2 Ostmarks. Whatever compromise is reached to protect the East German saver, it will be a much better rate than one to five. It is suggested that savings up to a maximum of 2,000 Ostmarks per person should be converted at parity, with further sums converted at DM1 for just over 2 Ostmarks, but even this will benefit the speculators.

A ruling that only money deposited before November 9 should be changed at a preferential rate seems unavoidable, but this is bound to discriminate against East Germans who later deposited large savings, such as the lump-sum loan paid by the state on marriage.

While East Germans — particularly the low paid and pensioners — fear that an exchange rate pitched above parity will leave them poorer after the currency union than before, the country's industrialists are well aware that the moribund economy cannot compete if it has to pay workers in hard currency at a rate of one to one while the outdated machinery in most factories makes it impossible to compete with West German firms in the same markets.

The rosy election promises of parity exchange neglected to mention that it would unavoidably be accompanied by mass bankruptcies and redundancies.

If the Bonn government accepts the Bundesbank's recommendation, it will have to accept that many East Germans will refuse to bite the bullet and will leave for the West instead. It is now impossible to buy a mobile home or a tent in East Germany, and many families are frugally

sitting on packed suitcases, preparing to leave if they suspect that the currency reform will swallow up their savings and much of their wages, which are already pitched well below West German levels.

The East German Christian Democrat leader, Lothar de Maizière, looks set to have his first clash with Chancellor Kohl on the matter, and his already shaky political reputation at home may be on the line.

Clearly displeased by the Bundesbank's suggestion, he dropped his characteristically meek tone to comment that this was scarcely what he had imagined when Kohl promised measures to induce East Germans to stay in East Germany.

The mood in these first spring days is troubled; the dream of hard currency has ended in a rude awakening, and the feeling is of a post-election hangover.

Whatever compromise is eventually reached between economic exigency and political expediency, the effect in East Germany of the currency debate has been a waning of people's faith in Bonn, and an unpleasant jolt at discovering a hitherto unsuspected facet of democracy: election promises that are not made good.

General Knowledge takes a fall

Robert Skidelsky finds yesterday's report on history teaching still biased against the factual method

The publication of the final report of the National Curriculum History Working Group gives an opportunity to carry the debate on school history a stage beyond the sterile facts-versus-skills argument.

The report prescribes programmes of studies covering the whole period of compulsory schooling (five-16), and — based on them — attainment targets for tests at the key ages of seven, 11, 14 and 16. The assessment scheme, on the other hand, is based on a standard assessment model designed to secure uniform monitoring of standards across the whole of the National Curriculum. The tension between the requirements of history as a subject and those of an assessment scheme that is subject-biased lies at the heart of the report; indeed constitutes its central contradiction.

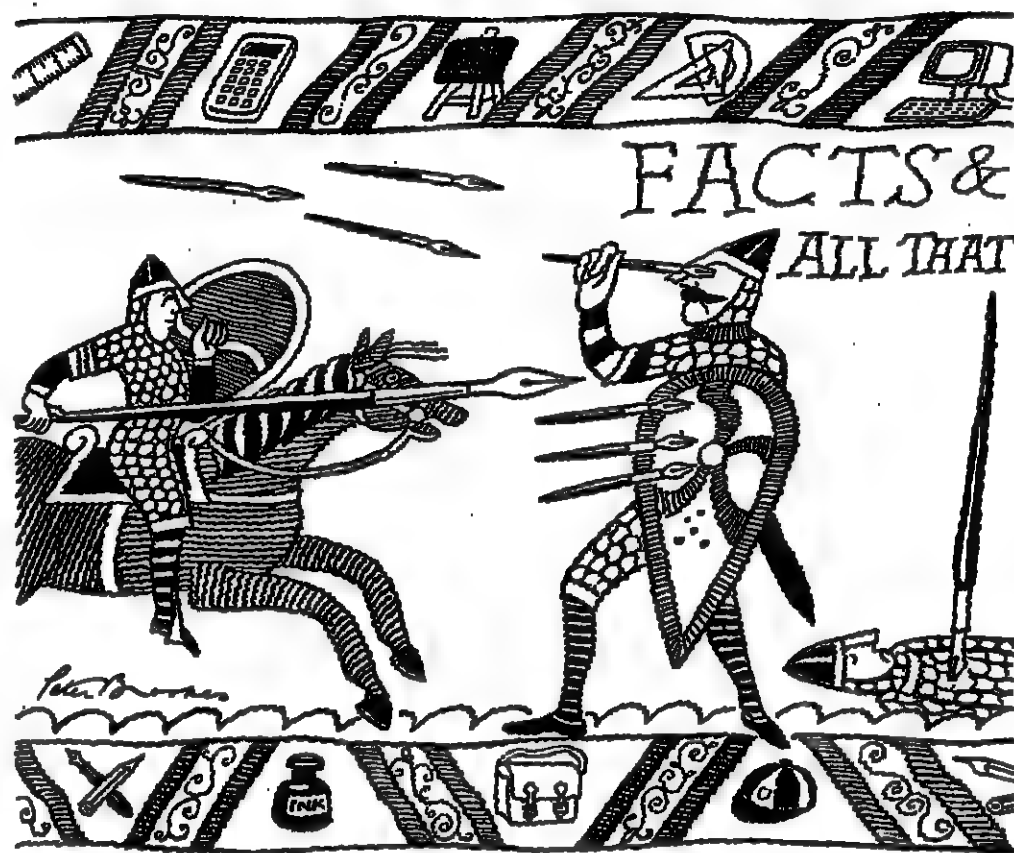
By what criteria should this report be judged? To my mind, the two most important are whether it defends the integrity of history as a subject, and whether it succeeds in defining a content appropriate to school history in this country. Some would disagree with this. They would say that the most important task of any school subject is to develop a pupil's mind. The key-age attainment targets of the assessment model are designed to promote and measure the growth of a cluster of mental attributes rather than the growing mastery of a specific subject.

The historian thinks of learning in terms of mastering a body of knowledge, understanding and techniques specific to his subject; the educator sees history

as one means among many of developing the mind (and perhaps heart) of the pupil. This tension is entirely healthy, and balances have to be struck. Recently, however, the balance has shifted unduly against factual knowledge, partly because the mental activity associated with its acquisition — memorizing — has been thought less valuable in a world of computers, calculators and rapid change. The balance now needs to be redressed. Factual knowledge is still essential to most kinds of thinking, and lies at the core of history.

How well does the report measure up to these requirements? Take first the programmes of study. Do these define an appropriate content for our pupils? Here I think it marks a great advance over the conventional wisdom of even a few years ago. The National Curriculum for GCSE History refused to specify a "minimum core of content", apparently on the grounds that "the inevitable selection, and rejection of content are value judgments". Any content would do, provided it supported the development and assessment of "concepts" and "skills".

The new report has no truck with this. It robustly declares that "British history should be the foundation of pupils' historical learning, since it is the main framework of their immediate experience". It prescribes a compulsory "core" of British, European and world history and tries to balance its programmes of studies between political, economic, social and cultural history (although there may be too



much of the last for some tastes), and chronological coherence.

However, there is clearly a danger that too much of the curriculum is being laid down by the centre. There will inevitably be questions about what has been left out. The Second World War is back in the compulsory core, but the First World War is still omitted. Why is the "market economy" absent from the list of key concepts for the modern period?

I don't think it is possible to clinch arguments for or against the inclusion of particular content or concepts, and I would prefer, therefore, to see more choice, and less prescription. I

would suggest maintaining the framework while allowing more flexibility in the application, with, say, competing syllabuses offering different mixes of content. This would prevent the framework becoming a straitjacket and would be popular with teachers and historians.

The report's robustness on content is not matched by its stand on assessment. It sets out to defend "the integrity of history, in the sense of its distinctive methods and nature", and for many, the measure of its success in doing so will lie in its specification of the attainment targets.

There are four types of target: understanding history in its setting; understanding points of view and interpretations; acquiring and evaluating historical information; and organizing and communicating the results of historical study.

The word "knowledge" does not appear in the specification of targets. The report insists that the attainment targets all "involve" knowledge, but it avoids actually saying that knowledge is to be tested. I believe this is a great mistake. Instead of a robust declaration to clinch the defence of history's integrity, the report emits a weak and muffled signal.

I believe there are two main reasons for this. First, knowledge is identified in the minds of many teachers and educationists with mere information, absorbed mindlessly by means of what is called "rote learning". But I do not believe that history, however traditional, was ever taught in this way. I cannot imagine a teacher at any time teaching, say, the Norman Conquest without trying to explain why the Normans invaded, why they won the battle of Hastings, and what followed from their conquest. The working group understands perfectly well that knowledge includes understanding and that testing for knowledge must include testing for understanding as it always used to, but its nerve failed in face of the caricature view of knowledge among teachers and in the media.

Perhaps an even greater obstacle to testing knowledge as such is posed by the assessment scheme, based on the concept of levels of attainment (on a scale from 1 to 10). The nub of the report's argument is that "it is hard to see how one could establish, by any kind of criteria, what might be (for example) level 7 of knowing about the Reformation". I would have preferred the report to say boldly that the model of assessment cannot be applied without considerable modification to the testing of a knowledge-based subject like history.

The report has made a notable contribution to the fashioning of a sensible history curriculum, but it is prescriptive as regards content and insufficiently robust on assessment. The three-month consultation period will be vital for building on its strengths and correcting its weaknesses.

The author is Professor of International Studies at Warwick University and director of the History Curriculum Association.

Sir, it is with appreciation and deep regret...

Alan Franks bids farewell to Leon Pilpel, Letters Editor of The Times

Forty years ago the idea of interviewing a journalist about the internal workings of his newspaper would have seemed an irrelevance, on a par with a television station automating the hand-held microphone during peak hours. It would also have suggested narcissism.

For a journalist on this newspaper to interview a colleague would have been doubly unthinkable. *The Times* then had neither the space, given the constraints of paper rationing, which lasted until 1957, nor a willing commentator. Since he has his professional roots in that epoch, it is consistent that Leon Pilpel should raise an eyebrow when asked to reflect on his four decades at Printing House Square, old and new, Gray's Inn Road, and Wapping.

Last week Mr Pilpel retired from full-time employment with the paper, on which, since the 11-month stoppage of publication in 1979, he had held the important post of Letters Editor. Throughout that period he has tended the page opposite, which despite its apparent breadth can

accommodate only a fraction of the 60,000 to 70,000 submissions received each year from Sir Joseph Public MP and humbler correspondents.

To editorial staff of all ranks, his very appearance at desk or office door carried the threat of benign admonition — not only because he was the complainant's conduit, but because he represented the link to a tradition of awesome rigour. To get something badly wrong was to offend the very school of journalism which had engendered him — a school somehow made more solemn and impenetrable by the great anonymity of the days before the byline. All this is not to write his professional obituary; to do so would be — if one may borrow his brand of understatement — "a bit of a solecism", since he is now taking on the role of the paper's deputy ombudsman.

If we have been chidden on this side of the counter, you, the customer, should also take note. "This is not a great letter-writing

age," says Mr Pilpel. "There are many people who simply do not know how to put words on to paper; they have become so used to talking on the telephone or dictating into machines and having them tidied up by their secretaries."

"Of the 300 letters a day, only about eight per cent are publishable. I am not talking about matters of syntax, but about importance, or metness. Many of them are pretty mundane, although frequently half a dozen not very brilliant ones can be made into a very good correspondence indeed — with a bit of judicious editing, and the specific approval of the letter-writer."

"Sometimes they want it published in full or not at all. We always check that first, and we offer suggestions which they are free to take on or not."

He cites 1982 as one of the best years for correspondence during his tenure. Quicken by the Falklands war, there was a substantial correspondence from former ambassadors and high-



Leon Pilpel: upholding tradition — but not unquestioningly

ranking civil servants. The quality of the writing and the clarity of thought, he recalls, demonstrated the great advantage of being taught how to write and how to assemble an argument.

As Mr Pilpel is the first to acknowledge, he was the inheritor of a page which had achieved excellence under the supervision of his predecessor, Geoffrey Woolley. And Woolley,

during the editorship of Sir William Haley, was heir to a tradition established by John Delane, editor of *The Times* from 1841 to 1877, who once commented that he had had "a fairly easy day, except for the letters, damn 'em."

"There were 200 of them, including letters from his own reporters, all sealed with sealing wax, which he had to break open himself," says Mr Pilpel. "Delane decided to adopt someone to do that job for him, and to present him with the plainings. The number of letters has not greatly altered from that day to this, except at times of great national emergency."

It would be impossible, Mr Pilpel concedes, for the letters page to have the same degree of influence which it enjoyed at the time of his recruitment. "The amount of information, and the diversity of viewpoints made available to the public from every medium, chiefly radio and television with all their discussion programmes, mean that

in some ways we are just part of a more widely disseminated form of argument."

In the course of his 40 years (and seven editors) at *The Times*, Leon Pilpel has seen the paper evolve to its present form through a range of identities that sometimes seemed bewildering — from the near-Dickensian atmosphere of ferocious double-checking and public castigation in the newsroom to the drive in the 1960s to refit a venerable institution for the modern age. If his own manner seemed magisterial, it had earned the right to be so, yet still bore all the diffidence of someone who for years had aspired to nothing more than the sub-editorship of the Court page.

Nor is his reverence for the old standards unquestioning. "You were told never to use the active verb in a headline," he remembers. "This gave rise to some interesting results. For example, there was a story about a man fighting a tiger with his bare hands, and it carried the headline 'Tiger Fought with Bare Hands'. The active verb, you see, would have been too exciting."

Distinctions all around the class

A WEEK or two ago, something called the Market Research Society came up with a new way of classifying social class. It believes that class may now be gauged according to profession. Even odder, it classifies bank managers (A) above landowners (B), dentists (A) above vicars (B) and — the absurdity! — Estate Agents (B) above Road Sweepers (D).

Its stratified list of 1,500 jobs and professions is full of such mistakes. Everyone other than the market researcher knows, for instance, that the dentist occupies a limbo social status, isolated from the great mass of fun-loving humanity by dint of his dentistry. Once, and only once, have I seen a dental surgeon at a party, and he could be identified immediately by the nervous glances being shot in his direction over a generous circumference of unoccupied floor.

I mention the vexed issue of the social status of the dentist only as an example of the looseness of all attempts to define class. In my view, the essential mistake of all surveys has been to see the class system as linear, extending from the tramp at the bottom to the aristocrat at the top, when it is in fact circular, with tramps and aristocrats merging 180 degrees due west of, say, the computer analyst.

There are many characteristics shared by the tramp and the aristocrat, yet not shared in any shape or form by the computer analyst. They include:

● A disinclination to engage in current affairs. The media tend to be avoided by both tramp and aristocrat, though really vital news may well filter through some 30 years on. Though she means nothing now, Mrs Thatcher will ring a vague bell in the year 2020 or so. In the 1930s, Sir George Reresby Sitwell proposed throwing an Artist's Ball, with invitations to be sent to, among others, Degas, Renoir, Rodin and Sergeant. As late as 1987, his last surviving child, Sacheverell, was to ask artist Lawrence Mynott, engaged in painting his portrait, "Tell me, how is Mr Atlee shaping up as prime minister?"

● A distrust of frumpiness. Central heating, fancy food, and every type of modern gadget are anathema to both groups. "Nasty, untidy things," Sir Tatton Sykes said of flowers when ordering the flowerbeds at Sledmere to be ploughed up in 1863. "If you wish to grow flowers," he advised one

tenant, "grow cauliflowers." Gadgets are eschewed because they never work. In the last century, one young aristocrat, staying away without his valet for the first time in his life, came running downstairs in a state of shock. "It's not frothing! It's not frothing!" he said, waving his toothbrush in the air, inconsolable, until it was explained to him that toothpaste must be applied to the brush before any frothing can take place.

● A certain scruffiness. The belief that there is small point in dressing to impress is firmly held by both groups. "But nobody knows me here," explains the scruffy aristocrat on a visit to London to a friend who chides him on his appearance. When the same friend bumps into the aristocrat dressed exactly the same in the country, the explanation comes. "But everybody knows me here."

● A penchant for mouthing unusual theories. Just as a bag-lady on the street can be seen happily giving voice to esoteric notions of society — Des O'Connor is the rightful heir to the throne, and so on — so can the aristocrat at his breakfast table. Both groups are unfettered by the dank chains of common sense. In the 18th century, Lord Monboddo stuck religiously to his opinion that orang-utans were humans and

capable of speech, and that all children are born with tails which are cut off by midwives at birth. Having observed the births of his own children with the sharpest of eyes, he nevertheless claimed that the midwives had outwitted him on each occasion, disposing of the tails while his back was turned.

To these essential similarities, all of which lie deeper than wealth, education or profession, can be added many others, including a slight snootiness towards royalty, a belief in the purgative powers of discomfort, a lack of susceptibility to advertisements, a shortage of formal qualifications, a mistrust of things foreign, and a penchant for smutty newspapers come Sunday.

Having thus established a new circular theory of British class, only one problem remains. Where on earth does one place the dentist?



CRAIG BROWN



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CAPPING WITHOUT A CAUSE

With the capping yesterday of 20 local community charges, Britain's poll tax reaches its nadir. The essence of this tax was that it would place council spending decisions under the glare of local democratic accountability. Now the very councils — high-spending left-wing ones — whose proclaimed extravagance underpinned this argument are to be relieved of that accountability.

Whether or not they accede to the capping procedure and meekly cut their spending, these councils will blame the resulting cuts in service on central government. They will carry some conviction. Downing Street's commissioners at the Department of the Environment have spent the past month desperately seeking a way of capping just enough councils just hard enough to show Tory backbenchers they are earnest without hitting councils under Conservative control.

Poll tax revenue will cover only some 20 per cent of local spending. Much argument surrounds the level of taxes announced over the past month, but recent experience suggests that urban voters are by no means disinclined to elect councillors who promise high taxes for high levels of service. The burden of high poll taxes on the poor is considerable — a feature of flat rate imposts. Their accountability gearing is high, however, and that gearing is shortly to be put to its first test in local elections on May 3, which include the "high-spending" London boroughs.

Here in operation is precisely the principle for which Conservative ministers and backbenchers voted throughout the passage of the poll tax through Parliament: local democratic choice over spending levels. They could not have been more explicit. When in 1981 Mr Michael Heseltine (then at the Environment Department) sought to make accountability more specific through local budget referendums, the Cabinet overruled him and opted for collective responsibility instead. If electors did not like high spending, they had to vote a council out of office, not shackles it with an annual budgetary veto.

Ministers, however, soon got cold feet. Local voters might not be allowed a veto, but

ministers would happily exercise it for them. The result was rate-capping. This mechanism was widely disliked on all sides of the political fence and seen as democratically unsatisfactory. Hence the poll tax and the rebirth of full collective accountability. More voters would pay the tax, restoring the (presumed) lack of accountability inherent in the rates.

Now ministers have cold feet a second time. They do not trust the purpose-designed, larger poll-tax electorates to exercise a democratic verdict on local spending. They do not trust them even to the extent of permitting a first year's trial period. They do not trust them even four weeks before they cast their votes, in elections at which poll tax levels are being shouted from the hustings on all sides. Was ever a Government so lacking in the courage of its own convictions?

The Cabinet is now seeking to ease the symptoms of a disease it has itself caused. In doing so it merely postpones the day when its urgent reappraisal of the poll tax must take place. Central government does not own local councils in Britain. They remain independent political entities, survivors of a welcome political pluralism. Many are undoubtedly wasteful and extravagant: central spending rose in cash terms by 36.2 per cent between 1984-85 and last year, local spending by 40.6 per cent. But many areas of central government are victims of similar extravagance — law and order and defence, for instance. Taxpayers have no way of capping VAT or income tax to protect themselves from the inefficiency of Mrs Thatcher's ministers.

The desire for greater local accountability inherent in the poll tax was met by the ruthless comparability of the taxes fixed over the past month — this was the tax's one ostensible virtue. Local voters could relate a highly-publicized single figure with figures declared by neighbouring councils. Now the Government has sacrificed this hard-won prize, while inviting the odium of urban chaos as capped councils pass on the blame for every slashed local service. The capping decision is a sign of panic. Mrs Thatcher has offered her opponents another free ride on the electoral roundabout.

INTOLERABLE DANGER

President Saddam Hussein is not given to euphemism, but his oath this week to "let our fire consume half of Israel", should that country attempt a pre-emptive strike against any Iraqi industrial plant, clothes the most horrible of intentions in an almost romantic vagueness. Iraq's fire means that droplets of chemicals spreading through Israeli towns and cities, paralysing people, filling their lungs with deadly mucus, burning, blinding and maiming them, killing thousands.

Against modern chemical weapons, gas masks are poor defence. The poisons permeate clothing and skin. The use of these weapons has been outlawed since 1925, under the Geneva Protocol which Iraq has legally bound itself to observe.

President Saddam's insistence that Iraq would only launch chemical warfare if attacked does not, even if it were to be believed, alter the plain fact that Iraq has stated its readiness to commit an illegal act. It may be bluff. But even a first strike cannot be ruled out, given the ruthlessness and contempt for law of Iraq's totalitarian regime.

Iraq has already shown no compunction about using chemical weapons offensively, against civilian as well as military targets, in war and even in peacetime and against its own citizens. The evidence, meticulously documented by UN missions, has been greeted by near-silence by the international community, and Iraq's apparent impunity from sanctions has made it a hero to other countries tempted to produce the "poor man's atom bomb". Having hitherto tried to deny that it had, or had used, chemical weapons, Iraq now boasts of the sophistication of its chemical arsenal and its willingness to use it.

President Saddam's speech raises the stakes in the Middle East balance of terror. It confirms Iraq's readiness to flout international treaty law. It has been applauded by other Arab countries, including Jordan, and by the PLO. It represents a clear threat to international security in the meaning of the UN Charter. The Charter provides for collective action in these circumstances. Failing that, a threatened

country has the right of self-defence under Article 51 of the Charter.

If Iraq is not challenged, the world can give up any hope of enforcing the Chemical Weapons Convention which is entering the final negotiating stages in Geneva. Inaction would also encourage Iraq to intensify its efforts to become a nuclear power.

Iraq's threat, while directed against Israel, has global implications. Intervention to secure Iraqi compliance with international law would be wholly justified. The chemical threat could only be removed (and then only temporarily) by pre-emptive military strikes, on the lines of Israel's destruction of the Osiraq nuclear reactor in 1981. That is clearly what Iraq fears.

Iraq has installed missile launchers along its border with Syria, exposing Israel to dreadful retaliation should it attempt to repeat the service to humanity it performed in 1981. It is hard to believe that any intervention by third parties — such as the great powers operating under some UN mandate — would relieve Israel of this same threat. For the time being, it would appear that this gruesome balance of terror in the Middle East must be left without military resolution.

Where Iraq's nuclear capability is concerned, sanctions such as tighter controls on exports of Western technology might still just be effective. Western technology, thanks to weak controls and what amounts to official complicity in exports of "non-lethal" materials, has already transformed it into a chemically-armed power, able to manufacture space rockets and missiles with which to launch chemical warheads. Exporting such materials to Iraq should be made the most serious of international offences.

The entire world community, East and West, must state unequivocally that it regards the development of chemical and nuclear weapons by Iraq as intolerable. It must make that clear before the chorus of Arab adulation persuades President Saddam that terror is the key to the leadership of the Arab world he has sought for so long.

LET THEM EAT BEANS

St Augustine would not have approved of the recent British tendency to eat less meat or even to adopt a vegetarian diet. The author of *The City of God* had enough trouble with his British contemporaries, but it was the gnostic dualists of the Manichean sect, most prevalent in Persia, who provoked his anathema against their renunciation of flesh. If, as reported in a survey published yesterday, one in 10 Britons no longer eat red meat and nearly 4 per cent eat no meat at all, it is not absurd to ask whether this might be symbolic of something more than a fad.

Ever since Mani, founder of the Manicheans, was flayed alive more than 1,700 years ago, vegetarians have endured ridicule and worse. The Cathars and other persecuted medieval heretics were vegetarians. Yet St Francis and his followers were scarcely less reluctant to slaughter animals. Heretical or orthodox, in Europe the abandonment of a carnivorous diet came to signify a moral attitude both more all-embracing and more vague than straightforward obedience to the dietary laws of Judaism, Islam and the religions of the East.

In more modern times, vegetarianism attracted many whose appetite for religion was inadequately satisfied by the spiritual nourishment of the Christian churches. Both Wagner and Nietzsche took it up for a time; so, more consistently, did writers as various as Shaw and Kafka. Nietzsche came in the form of Adolf Hitler, who took his vegetarianism — like everything else — to extremes of megalomania. Had he won the war, all Europe would have

been forced to consume the insipid mush on which he fed his staff. The spectacle of a herbivore who murdered millions has disposed of any pretence that vegetarians *per se* enjoy moral superiority.

The desire to live a long and healthy life, not moral scruple, seems to be the driving force behind the present British trend. Yesterday's survey suggests that young, middle-class women living in the South-east are especially averse to meat. Young women are more likely than most people to take care of their health and appearance.

The reaction has already begun. Older generations may take a sceptical view of the trend: all is vanity, fashion or "image", they are heard to murmur. Red-blooded types treat vegetarians as spoilsports, lumped together in the same motley category as teetotallers, anti-smoking militants or the arsonists who burn down weekend cottages in Wales. Useless to enjoin such bigots to greater tolerance; their protestations are more tiresome than the rare vegetarians who also attempt to proselytize.

Whether or not the vegetarian trend continues, the British diet, though much improved in recent years, still merits the castigation it receives from foreigners. If vegetarians encourage greater attention to vegetables, that can only be good for all concerned. This includes the producers, who will be expected to provide greater choice and better quality to the nation's cooks. Those who rear, slaughter and cook meat have nothing to fear; for them, the challenge is to offer a more attractive alternative to a meatless diet.

'Glasnost' in Lithuania

From Professor Emeritus Robin Kemball

Sir, The Soviet Ambassador's letter (March 29) trots out those half-truths, distortions, and woodcut, tendentious phrases which many (far too many) believed that glasnost had finally left behind. "Lithuania is part of the Soviet Union": *de facto*, yes, but *de jure*, no. This *de facto* appearance stems, as we all know, from the forcible occupation of the country by the Red Army in 1940. Did this represent that "essence of the principle of law and order" which Mr Zamyatin now so piously invokes?

As for the new law "which will establish a new form of relations with republics of the Union...", the draft text makes it abundantly clear that, beneath a veneer of reasonableness (like most of the Soviet Constitution), the law is a recipe designed to make it virtually impossible for any republic — even Lithuania — to opt out "legally".

This is what moved the freely-elected Lithuanian Government (in Mr Zamyatin's Sov-speak: "nationalistic circles in Lithuania") to act swiftly ("backlessly") before it was too late. If the present situation there has indeed been "over-dramatised", can Mr Zamyatin explain why his Government is so reluctant to give permission to Western diplomats and journalists to visit Lithuania?

The present policy (?) of Western leaders seems to be to try and persuade Mikhail Gorbachev not to use force, while doing nothing — but nothing — to "make his position more difficult". This is squaring the circle with a vengeance. Nor is it the whole answer to the problem: given time, Moscow has many more devious means of bringing the Lithuanians to heel.

The real issue is whether the "new-look" Soviet rulers are prepared to face the fact that the 1940 marriage was a shot-gun marriage, and as such is as null and void as the Moscow-Ribbentrop Pact which alone made possible its "consummation".

That the Soviets have invested heavily in Lithuania over the years is doubtless true, but the Lithuanians did not invite them there, nor ask them to deport tens of thousands of their countrymen. Since when does an occupying power demand reparations from the victim it has raped and ravaged, before consenting to release its grip? I am, Sir, your obedient servant, ROBIN KEMBALL, Les Fougères, Avenue de l'Épipland 10, CH-1012 Lausanne, Switzerland, March 30.

War horses

From Mrs Martha Bates Sir, Napoleon's saddle which he used when he rode his Arabian steed, Marengo (report and photograph, March 29), hangs in the hall at Levens Hall in Cumbria. It must have been quite splendid when new, with its red-velvet covering, its silk tassels and gilded shrouds. The horse was given to Napoleon by the Egyptian prince, Elphi Bey, during Napoleon's Egyptian campaign.

Levens Hall is owned by Mr Robin Bagot whose great-great-grandfather was Admiral Josceline Percy. The admiral had four brothers, all in the services during the Napoleonic Wars. One of them, Colonel Henry Percy, was ADC to the Duke of Wellington at the Battle of Waterloo when Napoleon fled the field.

Might it not be suitable for the saddle, also, as well as Marengo, to be on display at the war horse exhibition in this Year of the Horse? Yours riding my hobby horse of history, MARTHA BATES, Bindloss Lodge, Main Street, Milnthorpe, Cumbria.

First-class post

From Dr Nina E. C. Coltart Sir, Shortly after I moved here, my brother-in-law sent me a letter addressed to "Won, eh? Well Rowed!", which was delivered the next day. Yours faithfully, NINA E. C. COLTART, 14 Well Road, Hampstead, April 2.

Poll tax disquiet

From Professor Emeritus K. W. Walton Sir, Your leading article of March 29 is timely in dealing with the anomalies and absurdities arising from the implementation of "Community charging". The article does not mention that no satisfactory rationale has been put forward for the rule allowing second home owners to be charged up to twice the "standard community charge".

The great majority of second home owners own their properties at weekends and/or summer holidays. Even assuming use for every weekend throughout the year and for a month's holiday at some other time (i.e. about 134 days in the year) probably most owners use their properties for about one-third of the year. Thus most second home owners make relatively fewer demands upon local council services than their full-time resident neighbours.

Nevertheless, councils currently hard pressed for cash are naturally availing themselves of the powers

Vital role of food in hospitals

From Mrs Susan J. Thomas

Sir, I welcome the news that the Department of Health has appointed a panel of experts to look into the nutritional problems of elderly hospital patients (report, March 29). Its recommendations could have a big influence on the nutritional well-being of this group.

However, I was surprised to read that Professor Malcolm Hodgkinson, the chairman of the panel of experts, has not seen a case of scurvy for 25 years. As a dietician who has specialized in the nutrition of elderly people, I have seen ample evidence of vitamin C deficiency.

Following the diagnosis of a case of clinical scurvy amongst elderly long-stay patients in a psychiatric hospital, I carried out a nutritional study on a small group of these patients 10 years ago. 38 per cent of those studied had blood levels suggestive of scurvy. The reason was chiefly the excess destruction of vitamin C from overcooking the hospital vegetables. Furthermore it was only those drinking the daily fruit juice offered on the menu, who had adequate vitamin C levels.

The answer seemed simple;

Treating malnutrition

From Mr Richard C. Wilson

Sir, I agree with much of what Mrs Jean Page says on malnutrition in long-stay hospitals (report, March 28) but her solution does not address the complex problems raised in her presentation.

Florence Nightingale said that above all else hospital should do the patient no harm. As far as nutritional well-being is concerned hospital may indeed do the patient harm or at least reduce their capacity to benefit fully from other treatments.

In South East Thames Regional Health Authority (SETHA) we have been addressing this very issue. A multi-disciplinary study day held on October 19, 1989, at Guy's Hospital recognised that preventable malnutrition in our hospitals does exist and that the cause was multi-factorial. There is an urgent need for mandatory nutrition guidelines to be met in planning hospital menus and a small working party has been set up in SETHA to produce these.

Implementing the guidelines

Recruiting scientists

From Mr D. B. L. George

Sir, I note with concern the decision by the University of London to close the chemistry department at the Royal Holloway and Bedford New College after the university refused to allow the department to be increased to the minimum 200 undergraduates required by the Universities Funding Council. While it is appreciated that there is difficulty in recruiting chemistry students, the closure of the department will have the unfortunate effect of accelerating the decline of the science base in the UK.

From its own study of the problem, this association has established that in the next decade recruitment of appropriately qualified scientists into the industry will become increasingly difficult. The Government should take

Letter of the law

From Mr M. F. Barton

Sir, Mr Nicholas Storey (March 30) wonders what his solicitor's fee will be for vetting a long formal document prepared by Mr Storey, which only required one grammatical amendment. His question implies that he hopes and expects that the fee will be nominal.

I hope that the fee will be fair but substantial. His solicitor had to read a lengthy document, consider it in the light of his knowledge and experience, and advise whether it was satisfactory. He is entitled to be paid for this. In spite of Mr Storey's able drafting he was not sufficiently confident about it to rely on the document without confirmatory advice.

If you go to a specialist for a check-up and after performing all the tests he finds you fit, you would not expect to pay a nominal fee. Yours faithfully, M. F. BARTON, Michael Barton & Co (Solicitors), 20 Fore Street, Kingsbridge, Devon, April 2.

they have been given to apply the maximal multiplier in assessing the community charge for second home owners.

The effect of this is that second home owners are being charged between four and six times as much, proportionately, for their use of council services as their neighbours, at the sites of their second homes (in addition, of course to the regular community charge elsewhere). The only justification that has been put forward for this is that second home owners must be able, a priori, to afford the extra charge.

This borrowing from the committed hard left of a policy clearly deriving from the "politics of envy" illustrates the point your leader-writer makes about incompetent political judgment. If this principle is to be more widely applied, will I soon be legally required to pay four to six times the standard cost for a loaf of

bread as my neighbour because I am deemed to be sufficiently affluent to afford it? Yours faithfully, KENNETH WALTON, Selly Close, Birmingham, March 29.

From Mr Peter Morley

Sir, In rooting around my loft recently, I was fortunate enough to find the full 24 fortnightly editions of H. G. Wells' *Outline of History*, written in 1920, and to light on the following passage:

Whole nations were converted to Christianity by the sword just as Islam in Arabia, Central Asia, and Africa had converted whole nations a century or so before... With fire and sword, Mohammed preached the Gospel of the Cross to the Saxons, Bohemians, and as far as the Danube into what is now Hungary... Islam gave the conquered the alternative of paying a poll tax, and so was less intolerant than the Christianity of Charlemagne.

Yours faithfully, PETER MORLEY, Crossways, How Lane, Chipstead, Surrey, March 23.

daily orange juice for all or rather the economical alternative used by the hospital — a fortified fruit juice in a powdered form, which simply needed rehydration.

Some years later, a much larger nutrition study was carried out in the same hospital: 35 per cent of patients studied were found to be vitamin C deficient according to blood tests and 10 per cent were classified as severely deficient. The daily fruit juice had failed to protect patients from deficiency because, despite nutrition education, a lack of awareness persisted amongst staff and patients. The fruit juice was either not served regularly or, in some cases, was being over-diluted to a fraction of its correct strength.

Vitamin C deficiency seldom occurs in isolation, but is usually considered an indicator that the diet is deficient in other vitamins. Much work has to be done before vitamin deficiencies can be eradicated from our hospital wards.

Yours etc, SUSAN J. THOMAS, 29 Wolsey Drive, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, March 31.

and thereby ensuring that a minimum nutritional standard for food in hospitals is established and monitored will involve dietitians, doctors, caterers, nurses and administrators and Mrs Page's view that special nutrition nurses are the solution is a simplistic one.

Dietitians are well aware of the role of hospital food in treatment. Other professions particularly doctors, administrators and politicians need education about the pivotal role of hospital food in patient care. Hospital in-patients cannot be regarded as hotel guests when considering their nutritional requirements. Hospital food is at least as important as the drugs we use and should be afforded the same degree of importance in medical and nurse training and in decisions made about the allocation of resources throughout the NHS.

Yours sincerely, RICHARD C. WILSON, King's College Hospital, Dietetic Department, Denmark Hill, SE5, March 28.

steps as a matter of urgency to arrest the decline. Such steps would include making a considered evaluation of science education from primary to post-graduate level. News of the closure of science departments fills the pharmaceutical industry, in particular, with despair. It must also serve to encourage the UK's competitors and be a factor tending to lead to innovative UK companies (many of which are multinational) transferring their research investments from the UK to countries where the climate is more conducive to producing scientists.

Yours faithfully, D. B. L. GEORGE (Director, Science and Intellectual Property), The Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry, 12 Whitehall, SW1, March 23.

Mum's the word

From Mrs Linda Longmire

Sir, Some Mother's Day cards do move with the times (Mrs Goldsmith, March 27). My son's card urged me to cheer up — he would be more or less self-supporting by the time he was 42.

Yours faithfully, LINDA LONGMIRE, Langdale, Little Bookham Street, Bookham, Surrey, March 27.

From Mrs Rebecca Denman Sir, Mrs Belinda Goldsmith was most unlucky over her Mothering Sunday cards.

I received two, one of which read: "Consider yourself hugged", and the other, "Have a lazy day", both covered in spring flowers.

It's lovely being a mum. Yours faithfully, REBECCA M. DENMAN, 16 Inholmes Park Road, Burgess Hill, West Sussex, March 27.

bread as my neighbour because I am deemed to be sufficiently affluent to afford it?

Yours faithfully, KENNETH WALTON, Selly Close, Birmingham, March 29.

From Mr Peter Morley Sir, In rooting around my loft recently, I was fortunate enough to find the full 24 fortnightly editions of H. G. Wells' *Outline of History*, written in 1920, and to light on the following passage:

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Yours faithfully, PETER MORLEY, Crossways, How Lane, Chipstead, Surrey, March 23.

When life's play goes on too long

From Mrs Penelope Tremayne

Sir, Victoria Glendinning (Books, March 22) briefly discusses the mental reactions of sufferers under Hitler's terror, as described by Bruno Bettelheim. Earlier this month, at the age of 86, Bettelheim killed himself (obituary, March 16). Why has he, and why have others with similar nightmares behind them, taken that way out at last? Why did so many, at the time, submissively "march themselves off to their own deaths"?

Ms Glendinning quotes Bettelheim as putting it down to "inertia and the death instinct"; the people involved were in a sense already "dead by their own decision". I should like to offer two possible explanations.

The first is that the sight of human beings behaving worse than animals is unbearably disillusioning: the message to the mind is, "I would rather be dead than know this". At various stages I have passed a total of a few years amongst people living under terrorist domination — which is more like life under the Nazis than is always admitted today. The worst of it was not the remorseless trickle of murder, the piling-up of pain and grief on death and pain, but the sight of ordinarily good people cringing and betraying and failing themselves as they clung to a life that filled them with horror.

By the end of the first year of this I had many times hoped outright to be shot. It has been suggested that such feelings, and such suicides as Bettelheim's come from a sense of "guilt for having survived" where others have not. I believe it may come from a simpler, if equally wrong-headed, reaction: "If this is humanity I want no more of it".

Many years later I spent a few weeks as a kidnap victim, and afterwards found something of the same revision reawaken. But I also learned a more valuable lesson. Once you know that death is comparatively trivial your field of choice enlarges surprisingly. There is no difficulty about dying. Nothing to regret. (The very young, I think, know this by instinct, and are taught otherwise lest they throw themselves away too lightly.)

If at 86 — or much less — I want to go, I think I shall not kill myself for two reasons. As a Catholic I see suicide as spitting in God's face; and I should fear that it was cowardice. But a Bettelheim, say, need not doubt his own courage: if he decides to go it will be simply because the play has lasted long enough.

Yours faithfully, PENELOPE TREMAYNE, Kenle, Wadebridge, Cornwall, March 23.

Idea and St Paul's

From Mr Edgar Brennan

Sir, Mr Neil Fletcher, defending his behaviour at the Idea service in St Paul's, complains (March 30) that the first lesson was taken from the Apocrypha which is not, he tells us, from the Bible as the Church of England recognises it.

If he were to consult the sixth of the Thirty-nine Articles, he would learn that the Church of England reads the Apocrypha "for example of life and instruction of manners".

It would seem from Mr Fletcher's behaviour at the service that he is in some need of the latter. Yours faithfully, EDGAR BRENNAN, 12 Cantley Gardens, SE19, March 30.

Writing on the wall

From Commander P. E. Yonge

Sir, Dr Reeves (March 28) asks for initials and dates recorded on farm buildings.

In the farm cottage at Puslinch, which was part of a larger 15th-century house, there is scratched on the stone of a spiral staircase the names Francis Collin and Honor Collin, 1634.

This was discovered under layers of whitewash and they were probably servants who lived at the old Mansion House.

Yours faithfully, P. E. YONGE, Puslinch, Yeamouth, Plymouth, Devon, March 29.

Cambridge ahead

From Mr Graham Chaine

Sir, On the tidesway the Dark Blues remain supreme but it may be some consolation to the Tabs to know that in the field of letters (or at any rate your correspondence page) the dominance seems generally to run the other way.

Thus in January of this year I calculate that you published no fewer than 13 letters from Cambridge addresses against a misleading four from Oxford. This lead was magnificently maintained in February with a further 16 from Cambridge against three from Oxford. Only in March did the balance inexplicably swing the other way, with Oxford scoring seven published letters against five from Cambridge. The final score for the quarter, however, was still Cambridge 36, Oxford 14.

I do not, of course, offer any explanation.

Yours faithfully, GRAHAM CHAINE, 47 St Barnabas Road, Cambridge, March 31.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

April 3: The President of the Republic of India and Shrimati Venkatarman arrived today on a State Visit to The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh.

The Duke and Duchess of Kent, accompanied by the High Commissioner for India and Shrimati Nayar, welcomed their Excellencies on behalf of The Queen at Gatwick Airport, London.

The President of the Republic of India and Shrimati Venkatarman, accompanied by their Royal Highnesses, drove to Buckingham Palace.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh, with The Prince and Princess of Wales and The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, met their Excellencies at Buckingham Palace.

Gun Salutes were fired in Green Park by The King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, and from the Tower of London by the Honourable Artillery Company.

Guards of Honour were provided at Gatwick Airport by The Queen's Colour Squadron of the Royal Air Force, at Buckingham Palace by The Queen's Guard (1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards).

The President of the Republic of India and Shrimati Venkatarman, this afternoon drove to Westminster Abbey where His Excellency laid a wreath on the Grave of the Unknown Warrior.

Afterwards, at St James's Palace, their Excellencies received an Address of Welcome by the Lord Mayor and Councillors of the City of Westminster.

The President and Shrimati Venkatarman then visited Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother at Clarence House.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh gave a State Banquet this evening in honour of The President of the Republic of India and Shrimati Venkatarman at which Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, The Prince and Princess of Wales, The Princess Royal, The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, The Duke and Duchess of Kent and Prince and Princess Michael of Kent were present.

The following were invited: Suite of The President of the Republic of India and Shrimati Venkatarman, Shrimati Padma Venkatarman and Shrimati Lakshmi

Venkatesan (Daughters of The President and Shrimati Venkatarman), Shri Dinesh Goswami (Minister of Steel and Mines, and Law and Justice), Shri Pejavur Murari (Secretary to The President), Shri Inder Pal Khosla (Additional Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs), Shri Dalip Mehta (Chief of Protocol, Ministry of External Affairs), Shri Kamlesh Narayan Thakur (Chief Security Liaison Officer), Rear Admiral Sourajulu Ramsagar (Military Secretary to The President), Brigadier Inder Pal Bhatta (Physician to The President) and Captain Freraz Burjor Patel (ADC to The President).

Specialty attached in attendance upon The President of the Republic of India and Shrimati Venkatarman

The Viscount Boyne (Lord in Waiting) and The Viscountess Boyne, Sir David Goodall (British High Commissioner in New Delhi) and Lady Goodall, The Lady Susan Hussey (Lady in Waiting) and Wing Commander David Walker, RAF (Equerry in Waiting).

Ambassadors and High Commissioners

His Excellency the High Commissioner for the Republic of Cyprus and Mrs Panayides, His Excellency the High Commissioner for the Republic of India and Shrimati Nayar, His Excellency the Ambassador of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Madame Zamyatina, His Excellency the Ambassador of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay and Senora de Sole-Romero, His Excellency the Ambassador of the Republic of Ireland and Mrs O'Rourke, His Excellency the High Commissioner for the People's Republic of Bangladesh and Mrs Safullah, His Excellency the Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and Mrs Butros, His Excellency the Ambassador of the Republic of Zaire, His Excellency the Ambassador of Nepal and Mrs Simha, His Excellency the Ambassador of the Philippines and His Excellency the Ambassador of the Republic of Hungary and Mrs Gyorko.

Members of the Indian High Commission

The Deputy High Commissioner for the Republic of India and Shrimati Haidar, Shri B K Ramakrishna Rao (Minister), Shri Surendra Kumar (Counsellor) and Shri Prabhat Prakash Shukla (Counsellor).

The Cabinet

The Lord Chancellor and the Lady Mackay of Clashfern,

the Prime Minister and Mr Denis Thatcher, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and the Hon Mrs Douglas Hurd, the Secretary of State for the Home Department and Mrs Waddington, and the Secretary of State for Employment and Mrs Howard.

Special Invitations

The Archbishop of Canterbury and Mrs Runcie, the Right Hon the Speaker and Mrs Weatherill, the Earl Marjoribank and the Duchess of Norfolk, the Earl and Countess of Listowel, the Lady Alexandra Metcalfe, the Lord Chief Justice of England and the Lady Lane, the Lord Templeman, the Lord and Lady Goff of Chieveley, the Lord and Lady Prior, the Lord and Lady Armstrong of Ilminster, Group Captain Leonard Cheshire, VC, and the Baroness Ryder of Warsaw, the Right Hon the Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayores, His Excellency the Commonwealth Secretary-General and Mrs Ramphal, the Right Hon James Molyneux, MP, the Right Hon Neil Kinnock, MP, and Mrs Kinnock, the Right Hon Paddy Ashdown, MP, and Mrs Ashdown, Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir David and Lady Craig, General Sir John and Lady Chapple, Air Chief Marshal Sir Peter and Lady Harding, Sir Patrick and Lady Wade-Gery, Sir David and Lady Orr, Sir Trevor and Lady Holdsworth, Sir Brian and Lady Rix, Sir Peter and Lady Imbert, the Lord Mayor of Westminster and Mrs Mabey, Shri Krishna Venkatchalam Rajan, Brigadier and Mrs Alan Cowan, Mr and Mrs Eric Newby, Mr and Mrs Manick Dalal, Mr and Mrs Richard Evans, Mr and Mrs Bamber Gascoigne, Miss Felicity Kendall, Mr and Mrs Michael Rudman, Mr and Mrs Patrick MacDougall and Mr and Mrs Ramana Subba Row.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

April 3: The Princess Royal visited the 1990 International Construction Equipment Exhibition at Wembley Conference Centre.

Mr Charles Ritchie was in attendance.

This afternoon Her Royal Highness, President, Save the Children Fund, chaired an Industry and Commerce Group meeting at Buckingham Palace.

KENSINGTON PALACE

April 3: The Prince of Wales received a delegation of the General Council of British Shipping and the Honourable Company of Master Mariners, at St James's Palace.

Subsequently His Royal Highness received Mr and Mrs Appleyard at St James's Palace.

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Aldo Fabrizi, Italian actor, screenwriter, director and gourmet, died aged 84 on April 2. He was born in Rome on November 1, 1905.

Round and impassioned, Fabrizi was a distinctive player in many Italian films. But for international audiences his name will be associated above all with *Roma, città aperta* (1945). Roberto Rossellini's powerful portrait of a city suffering through the final hours of the German Occupation. Fabrizi played Don Pietro, the courageous priest who is tortured and shot for supporting the Resistance.

The film, recently shown on BBC television, began life as a documentary short about a real-life priest, Don Morosini, who suffered a similar fate.

Aldo Fabrizi often used Roman dialect in his film characterizations. His early experiences in music-hall, radio and theatre were all in the realm of comedy, though *Roma, città aperta* firmly established his skill in drawing robust character studies.

Sometimes Fabrizi's talent for histrionics could get the better of him, but on this occasion humour and sentiment were admirably balanced.

Fabrizi's subsequent roles continued in the same vein. In *Mio figlio professore* (1946), directed by Renato Castellani, he played a lowly school porter with academic ambitions for his son. Then in Luigi Zampa's *Vivere in pace* (1946), he portrayed the head of a family harbouring two escaped GIs (one of them black) in a remote village

thrust into the turmoil of war. *Emigrantes*, in 1949, marked his debut as a director. He followed the prevailing neo-realist trend, fashioning a semi-documentary account of a family emigrating to Argentina, where the bulk of the film was shot. Fabrizi also wrote the script and played the father.

None of the films he directed — there were four more during the Fifties — achieved

OBITUARIES

ALDO FABRIZI



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THE RIGHT REV COLIN MACPHERSON

The Right Rev Colin MacPherson, Roman Catholic Bishop of Argyll and the Isles since 1968, died aged 72 on March 24. He was born on August 5, 1917.

He was the first Gaelic-speaking island bishop since the Reformation.

Born in Lochboisdale, he grew to boyhood in a Hebridean world of material hardship and what he experienced in those years was greatly to influence him.

He was the son of a schoolmaster in South Uist, "a collar and the man" in the local phrase, meaning that he was relatively well situated. But the boy could not but be aware of the hardships then typical of a crofting community.

When only five he witnessed the emigrant ship which came to his native island, taking away hundreds of local people to Canada because of land hunger at home. Those memories stayed with him.

After schooling at Blair College, Aberdeen, the junior seminary, he was selected for the Propaganda College in Rome and ordained in 1940.

MacPherson became parish priest of Knoydart and quickly identified with the cause of local people who had engaged one of the biggest landowners in the country in a legal dispute. Thousands of acres of land had been put down to forest which local people believed would afford a livelihood if farmed for some 40 crofters.

The case was lost in the courts, but things changed in the region as the government gave more attention to such communities' problems and set up the Crofters' Commission in 1956.

That year MacPherson moved to Benbecula, where he served for 10 years. Here again he made great efforts on behalf of the local people.

Remembering how, when he was a child, eggs had served

crofters as a kind of money he set about encouraging his parishioners to supplement their croft income from sheep and cattle by investing in more poultry rearing. He got them to open a local egg grading station which was run as a cooperative.

MacPherson also became a prominent member of the old Inverness-shire County Council, where he campaigned for improvements in housing, education and in communications.

Many of the rural communities lacked at that time, electric power. When electricity arrived at Barra in the 1960s he was invited to switch it on by grateful islanders.

In December 1968 he was nominated Bishop of Argyll and the Isles and ordained the following February.

MacPherson was recognized as a natural leader and represented the Scottish Roman Catholic bishops on the Episcopal Conference of

international distribution. But other movies kept Fabrizi's gifts alive. He teamed again with Rossellini for *Francesco, giullare di Dio* (1950), cast against type as a pompous nobleman, swathed in a cloak. Alessandro Blasetti's *Prima communiione* (1950) found him scuttling around Rome, trying to fetch his daughter's communion dress from the dressmakers in time for the ceremony.

Then came one of his biggest successes in *Guardie e ladri* (1951) — Steno and Monicelli's delicious tale of a policeman with his job on the line, given three months to locate a thief. Totò played the scawag thief; Fabrizi used all his gifts for subtle emotional shading as the desperate policeman who befriends the thief's family.

Fabrizi kept on acting until the mid 1970s, though the parts gradually shrank and the films he appeared in became weaker.

In 1967 he flirted with Hollywood, propping up the cast of *Three Bites of the Apple* (1967), a glossy vehicle for David McCallum. But he was out of place in international productions like *Raimo* (very much his French counterpart), his strength came from his ability to personify national character types with precision and flair.

Away from the cinema, Fabrizi found time to write several cook books, with the recipes written in verse; on occasion he gave public recitals of the tastier entries in his beloved Roman dialect.

His translations into Turkish ranged from Shakespeare to Sean O'Casey, and from Marlowe through Swift to J.R. Priestley, and his versions of *King Lear*, *Caligula* and *An Inspector Calls* were performed repeatedly in Ankara and Istanbul.

Ali İrfan attended the French lycée of St Joseph at Istanbul before being sent by Kemal Atatürk to Cambridge to study English literature for four years. While at Fitzwilliam House he was invited to join the University athletics team, won his full Blue and became a friend of Harold Abrahamson (of *Charlton of Fire* fame). At the White City in 1937 he caused a sensation when he broke the British and Turkish national and British university shot putting records (the latter by practically 3½ feet). His university record remained unbroken for more than 20 years.

Returning home, he joined the newly founded Faculty of Letters at the University of Ankara, where he worked with Professor Gatenby.

Appointed Professor in 1950, he spent a year at Harvard doing research into American literature and drama in 1952-3, and then founded at Ankara University the first institute of theatre studies in Turkey. He later chaired the play-selecting committee of the Turkish State Theatre.

A friend of successive British Ambassadors, Ali İrfan Sahinbas was a pioneer of Anglo-Turkish relations. He founded the Turco-British Association and served as its chairman for 25 years; for his services to Anglo-Turkish relations he was appointed an honorary OBE.

At the same time he served as member and chairman of the Fulbright Commission for Turkey for over 32 years. He also sat on the council of International Theatre Institute and represented Turkey at Unesco.

ALI İRFAN SAHINBAS

Professor Ali İrfan Sahinbas, founder and first chairman of the Turco-British Association, died aged 76 on April 2. He was born on November 21, 1913.

Turkey has lost a leading English scholar, and Britain a most active friend, with the death in Ankara of Ali İrfan Sahinbas. He will be remembered as a teacher, translator, scholar and prominent figure in Turkey's cultural life. He taught English literature at Ankara University for 44 years, and was outstandingly successful in communicating and passing on to his students his own passionate love of the English language and literature. A generation of Turkish ministers, ambassadors and governors, teachers and professors were his students.

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Forthcoming marriages

Sir John Hanbury CBE and Mrs R.E. Coquelle

The engagement is announced between John Capel, of Great Amwell, and Rosemary, widow of La Cdr P. Coquelle RN, of Hunsdon, Hertfordshire. The marriage will take place quietly after Easter.

Mr N.D. Price and Mrs S. Karavia

The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Keith Price and Lady Simmonds, and Serena, elder daughter of Rula Ellis, and the late John Helps.

Mr S.C. Lay and Miss A.J. Jeffrey

The engagement is announced between Stephen, son of Mr and Mrs A. Lay, of London, SW 11, and Amanda, daughter of the late Hon Mr Justice Jeffrey, of Sydney, Australia.

Mr E.J. Eden and Miss V.M.C. Deshon

The engagement is announced between Edward, younger son of the Hon R.J. and Mrs Eden, of Cromlix, Dunblane, Perthshire, and Victoria, eldest daughter of Major and Mrs D.P.T. Deshon, of Harley Mauditt House, Alton, Hampshire.

Mr B.M. Armstrong and Miss S.R. Fanshawe

The engagement is announced between Martin (Stretch), eldest son of Mr and Mrs Leslie Armstrong, of Larch, County Wicklow, Eire, and Rose, only daughter of Captain and Mrs Brian Fanshawe, of Knoonington, Leicestershire.

Mr C.F. Barrow and Miss A.E. Schoemann

The engagement is announced between Christopher, only son of Mr and Mrs Kenneth Burness, of Belgravia, London, and Anna, elder daughter of Prof Dr Martin Schoemann and Elisabeth Schoemann, of Bochum, Germany.

Mrs J. Abel Smith, a daffodil grower of Letty Green, Herford, is showing one of her latest hybrids, which she believes is the first small-cupped daffodil with a pink cup. She has been breeding for this colour for many years. As yet unnamed, it is being propagated for eventual sale.

J Walker's Bulbs, of Weston Hills, Lincolnshire, is presenting a range of new daffodils, including a pure deep yellow trumpet variety named "Kilkenny" and the

Memorial services

Mr D.S. Cohen and Miss S.S. Hunter

The engagement is announced between Daryl, only son of Mr and Mrs D.S. Cohen, and the late Martin L. Cohen, of the Manor, Great Smeeth, N Yorks, and Sorina, elder daughter of Mr Graham Hunter, of Ludlow, Shropshire, and Mrs N. Hunter, of Sussex.

Mr J.R.S. Egerton and Miss F.A. Irwin

The engagement is announced between Joseph, elder son of Mr and Mrs J.R.S. Egerton, of Evenlode, Gloucestershire, and the late Mr Reginald Irwin, and Fiona, elder daughter of the late Colonel and Mrs Roy Irwin.

Mr O.K. Marlow and Miss S.P. Hayes

The engagement is announced between Oliver, younger son of Mr and Mrs William Marlow, of Aldbury, Hertfordshire, and Susan, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Roger Hayes, of Seaford, Sussex.

Mr G.H. Rolfe and Miss A.S.A. Burrough

The engagement is announced between George, son of Mr and Mrs G.H. Rolfe, of Melbourne, Australia, and Amanda, daughter of Mr and Mrs Norman Burrough, of Dencombe House, Handcross, Sussex.

Marriage

Mr S.T. Longley and Miss H. Moore

The marriage took place in Southampton, on Saturday, between Stephen, son of Mr and Mrs S.T. Longley, of Southampton, and Elizabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Moore.

Patterson and Martin, of Nettleton, North Lincolnshire, is featuring a dwarf peat-garden plant, *Kalmiopsis leucocoma*, in its gold medal alpine plants display. This is an evergreen studded with deep pink blooms.

The show will also appeal to greenhouse gardeners. Donington Plants, of Wrangle, Lincolnshire, is featuring the bulbous *Lachenalia* with bell-shaped flowers which is recommended for the frost-free greenhouse. Species include *L. glauca* with blue flowers and *L. aloides* "Vauzy-

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Royal hospital

The new Brompton and National Heart Hospital in west London is to be called the Royal Brompton and National Heart Hospital. The Queen and Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother are patrons of the Brompton and Princess Alexandra is patron of the National Heart Hospital.

The first phase of the £25 million hospital opens in the autumn.

Latest appointments include: Mr J.E.C. Macrae CMG to the King of Morocco in succession to Mr J.V.R. Shanks-Carmichael, LVO, who will be retiring from the Diplomatic Service.

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Today's royal engagements

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh will attend a service of thanksgiving at Westminster Abbey at 11.00 to mark the 150th anniversary of King's College Hospital. Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, president, will also attend.

The Princess Royal, as Patron of the British School of Osteopathy, will visit the school at 1-4 Suffolk Street, SW 1, at 9.30; as Patron of the British Nutrition Foundation, will attend the Nutrition Society meeting at 15 Belgrave Square, SW 1, at 10.30; as President of the Save the Children Fund, will visit Gardner Merchant International Management Centre, Kenley House, Kenley, Surrey, at 12.40; and receive a cheque for the charity; and as Chancellor of London University, will visit the new Department of Neuroscience at the Institute of Psychiatry, Denmark Hill, SE5, at 3.15. Later, as Lady Livyman of the Woolmen's Company, will attend the Master's dinner for the wool industry at the City Club at 7.10.

The Duke of Kent will visit Vickers Shipbuilding and Engineering in Barrow-in-Furness at 10.15, and as President of the BBC's *Young Musician of the Year* competition at St David's Hall, Cardiff, at 6.45.

The Duchess of Kent, patron, will attend the finals of the BBC's *Young Musician of the Year* competition at St David's Hall, Cardiff, at 6.45.

Lincoln's Inn</

CORBY

FOCUS

A SPECIAL REPORT

Rescue from economic ruin

When British Steel shut down its works in Corby, a third of the town's population was put out of work. Derek Harris looks at the district's remarkable recovery

They come from far afield to inquire after the Corby miracle. Americans, Germans, Japanese — all these and more from the international business community want to know how the Northamptonshire town, near the border of Leicestershire, rescued itself from economic ruin.

The town has passed its first major watershed by driving unemployment, which was once at 30 per cent, below the national average. Last November, as the Corby District Council was celebrating its golden jubilee as a senior local authority, the jobless rate was down to 4.5 per cent.

Corby has succeeded in attracting a high proportion of manufacturing companies to the area, helped by securing Assisted Area status and the creation of an Enterprise Zone, under the aegis of the Commission for the New Towns, which had been charged by the Government

with helping alleviate Corby's unemployment problems.

Corby was transformed in the mid-1930s from a village of some 1,500 people into a rapidly expanding community when Stewarts & Lloyds, a leading Scottish steelmaker, moved in to exploit extensive iron ore deposits.

The community was heavily dependent on Corby Works, as the steel plant was known together with its associated tube works. In early 1980, the then state-owned British Steel Corporation shut down steelmaking, although not the tube works.

About 5,500 jobs disappeared directly but about 11,000 people in all found their livelihood gone — a third of the Corby adult workforce. But the community which faced this hammer blow was unusual. Corby's population, now 53,000, had come to consist of two-thirds of people of Scottish descent and one in six from an Irish background, with a sprinkling of European



The Scottish influence: Highland dancing is an important part of Corby's culture

immigrants attracted by the steel boom.

The industrialization of Corby occurred in a confined area. A few miles away from the steelmaking, the undulating shire's countryside still held its charm, now a plus as Corby attempts to capitalize on its countryside attractions, from Rockingham Castle, alongside the village of Rockingham with its ironstone cottages, to the East Carlton Countryside Park,

which the Corby District Council acquired as part of its purchase of 600 acres of British Steel land.

Social occasions common north of the border have their counterparts in Corby, from Burns nights to Scottish country dancing and an annual Highland gathering, which is the biggest of its kind in England, and attracts crowds of 40,000 or more in July.

Corby has managed to skirt any tendency to inter-

denominational strife: there are strong Catholic and Protestant groups which live peacefully together as Corby keeps its eye on improving the lot of everybody in the town.

Corby is, again typically, disinclined to dwell on its past, preferring to target the future. There is a prospective European dimension as new roads bring the Continent nearer via the east-coast ports, the possibility of a busy commercial airport (where

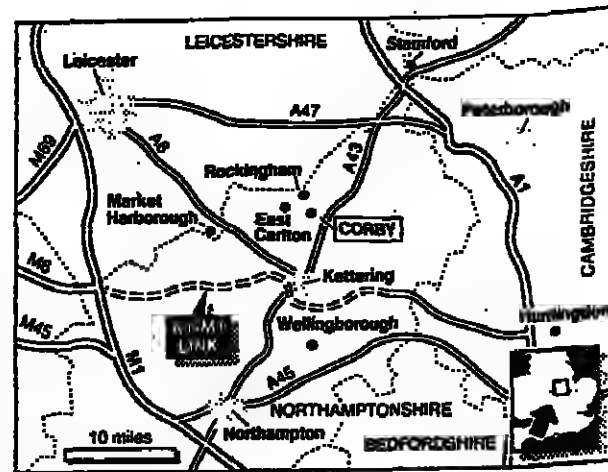
there is at present a former World War II landing strip), additional road and rail connections and what could be the next biggest theme park in Europe after Disney's planned Paris venture.

Labour-dominated Corby District Council has not been content to rest on its laurels — it has been a prime mover in reviving the town's economy — but has produced a new strategy to take the district into the next century.

It looks to producing another 10,000 jobs over the next 10 years, coupled with a growth of 20 per cent in population, housing and business. The district's Enterprise Zone sites are nearly full but it is hoped to retain Assisted Area status until fully recovered.

A £30 million reworking of Corby's centre by Tops Estates, the London-based developer, including out-of-the-weather retailing, is planned with the aim of turning Corby into a shopping centre of regional appeal to counter the attractions of centres like Leicester and Peterborough, as well as Kettering and Market Harborough.

The A1-M1 link road, close to motorway standard, is due for completion in 1992 and runs conveniently close by to Corby. The Corby District Council is pursuing other road improvements and there are several ideas for rail improve-



ments being explored to give Corby a better service than the shuttle between Kettering, on the main line, and Corby, which is subsidized by the local authority.

British Rail's most recent idea is for a rail service connecting Swindon and Peterborough, taking in centres like Milton Keynes, Bedford, Kettering and Corby. The 1990s strategy plans have a clearly achievable target, according to Peter McGowan, the 50-year-old chairman of Corby District Council. He is the first locally born chairman, his parents having come from Scotland to Corby in the 1930s.

While over the last 10 years the concentration has been on attracting industries to the district, the emphasis must now be on addressing the problem of housing, he believes. The council wants to see at least 5,000 new dwellings, with half of them in the low-cost category.

Mr McGowan says: "Social economic problems are emerging because of the growing wealth of the community. The need for additional leisure facilities has to be addressed. Given continuing Government restrictions, these pose major problems but we have to satisfy the needs of the local community. Life is going to be very difficult for the council over the next 10 years."

The community charge for Corby is set at £350, of which £286 goes to the Northamptonshire County Council. The Uniform Business Rate will cause a loss of at least £5 million to the council, according to Mr McGowan.

Corby will be the site of one of Britain's first clean-energy, combined-cycle, gas-fuelled power stations. East Midlands Electricity hopes construction will get underway this summer and that the £120 million project will be operational by 1993.



"We have to go out and kick down doors"

Kelvin Glendenning
Leader
Corby District Council

Looking for boom after gloom

KELVIN Glendenning, the Flintshire man who has been leader of Corby District Council since 1974 and in his time was a steelworker like his father and grandfather before him, is the *eminece grise* of this individual community. He has played a crucial role ever since the steelworks closed in 1980, not least in taking a part in the creation of the Joint Industrial Development Committee formed to spearhead Corby's industrial revival (*the Industrial*

Editor, Derek Harris, writes). As gloom enveloped the steel industry, the committee was set up in November 1979 to include representatives from Corby council, Northamptonshire County Council, the Commission for the New Towns when it took over from the development corporation for Corby new town and British Steel Corporation (Industry), the then state-owned organization's job-creation arm.

With the joint committee as

policy-making body, Corby council effectively placed executive powers in the hands of its own leadership, so the local authority was run and controlled as a business turned to "crisis management".

As cash and other support was sought from every possible source, a favourite Glendenning instruction to council officers was: "We have to go out and kick down doors." Thus, Department of Environment derelict land grants at about £22 million

paid for the 600 former steel works acres that the district council acquired. About £65 million in European Community cash has been injected, including £28 million in redevelopment grants and £24 million in selective assistance. Mr Glendenning has been to most European countries, to the United States twice, Australia and China. The Chinese trip was connected with the locating in Corby of the Huanpu television-manufacturing company.



"There was grit and guts and a straight look in the eye"

Michael Heseltine
Former Environment
Secretary

A rugged breed of men

IN 1981, in the wake of the Corby steelworks closure, Michael Heseltine, the then Secretary of State for the Environment, gave the go-ahead for England's first Enterprise Zone. Initial approaches from Corby had met with little sympathy in Whitehall. Last year he wrote in the foreword of a commemorative history of Corby of how he remembered the people there at their time of crisis.

"There was no whingeing, merely a rugged breed of men determined to fight back against the cards that had been

dealt against them. There was no bravura, no bombast, no resentment and certainly no party hostility. There was grit and guts and a straight look in the eye."

I have never doubted that the help we gave was necessary and was properly designed. It carried with it the right mixture of disciplined encouragement and incentive, given with a generosity of heart. I have new memories of Corby now — of the frequently offered invitations to return and of the near miracle I see when I do."

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مركز الامم

Business offers a second chance

Location, availability of labour, a good site and financial incentives — this was what attracted RS Components to Corby, where, with a workforce of nearly 2,000, it has become one of the biggest employers.

"We always said we never came just for the financial incentives of the Enterprise Zone," says Richard Brown, personnel director of RS Components, which promotes itself as a "one-stop shop" stocking everything a professional engineer needs.

He adds: "The local labour force had a lot of people willing to work and to contribute to the company's prosperity. Corby has more than fulfilled the company's expectations."

With its sights set on global expansion, RS Components, which already exports to 140 countries, is planning to make the former steel town its European headquarters. It has another operational unit in Ireland and is forming a company in Frankfurt, West Germany. Further evidence of its commitment to Corby is a £20 million investment in an extension which will virtually dou-

Irene Farnsworth looks at how small companies that

have been lured to

Corby are helping

it regain its feet

as they grow

with the town

ble the size of its warehouse operation. Despite technological advances which have greatly improved the placing-of-orders side of the operation, servicing orders is still labour-intensive.

The company processes 12,000 orders a day, pledging that an order placed by 5pm will be shipped out that night. RS is the largest user of Datapost in the UK and has the biggest parcels contract with Securicor.

RS Components started out 50

years ago as a radio spares company. There are now 23,000 products in the RS catalogue, bought in from more than 1,000 suppliers world-wide and sold to 140,000 customers in the UK alone.

The company relocated to Corby from three different buildings in London eight years ago. It was a progressive transfer which initially brought 200 existing employees to the Northamptonshire town, but by the time RS was fully operational after the move, a further 600 jobs for local people had been created. Now it is the largest of the new companies attracted to Corby.

Mr Brown, who said that some people still had an image of Corby as a conglomeration of disused steel works and slag heaps, applauded the town's decision to flatten giant steel furnaces to make way for new industry.

"They did not worry about monuments to the past but concentrated on the future," Mr Brown says. "Another inspirational decision which impressed us was setting up a small group empowered to make decisions. It cut the red tape. The group could



Steering to greater success: Briony Newington, a director of Queen's Award winner Fairline Boats

give you agreement there and then — and that was a pleasant experience for my company."

Another company with good reason to appreciate the pace at which things move in Corby is Chemence, a manufacturer of glues. Seven months ago, fire gutted its factory. The Commission for the New Towns (CNT) immediately found Chemence alternative accommodation but the company will soon move back to its old site, where a

60,000 sq ft factory is nearing completion.

John Hill, Corby's director of industry, says: "We have always told people how fast you can do things in Corby. The company is so pleased with the co-operation it was given, which meant that few orders were lost, that it has bought another factory and is going to double its workforce to 200."

Fairline Boats, based at nearby Oundle, where it was started 35 years ago as a hobby business,

attributes its rapid expansion to the benefits of opening three plants in Corby, where it bought sites nearly three years ago.

"Without the very good capital allowances, jobs grant and zero rating we would not have been able to finance expansion so quickly," says its director, Briony Newington, whose father-in-law started the business.

Fairline, which went public in 1979, has a £30.5 million turnover, to which the Corby plants

'The company is so pleased with the co-operation it was given that it has bought another factory'

contribute about £19 million. The company, winner of a Queen's Award in 1986, exports 60 per cent of its production directly.

The boats sold to UK distributors are often exported to customers on the Continent, retailing from £20,000 to £250,000. The core market is France, West Germany and Italy, and markets are being developed in Scandinavia, Turkey, Japan and the Far East.

Fairline employs laminators, engineers and carpenters and has had no problems in recruiting people with skills or capable of being trained.

The location of Corby, which is well-sited for distribution throughout the UK and within easy reach of the east coast, has helped to attract companies. Food and food-related industries, including Weetabix and ABR Foods dominate the newcomers, followed by plastics companies.

The new industrial estates, linked by wide distributor roads, are a mixture of speculative units built by the CNT and factories and warehouses developed by companies to meet particular needs. The estates gain from not being laid out in straight lines and are enhanced by landscaping.

Town's loyalty is rewarded

A face-lift planned for Corby includes a shopping centre complex which will rival those in the surrounding areas

Set above the steelworks village that outgrew itself, Corby town centre was built on a green fields site through the 1950s and 60s. The shopping area was the centrepiece of a growth plan by Corby Development Corporation to create one of the post-war new towns.

A main road, Corporation Street, had been carved through the shopping centre but was later pedestrianized. Now, with Corby's changing face and fortunes, it is time for another new look.

The town centre has been sold to property developers for £25 million and a £30 million face-lift is expected to start soon. The new owners of the town centre, London-based Tops Estates, commissioned the leading UK architects, The Seifert Group, to draw up a blueprint for the regeneration of the heart of Corby New Town.

Seifert's strategy has been to radically re-define the town's shopping patterns and encourage a north/south pedestrian flow between Queen's Square and a retail precinct to be built on a car park. The four-phase project includes construction of a 150,000 sq ft shopping plaza, as well as the upgrading of retail space to provide a quality regional shopping centre.

"We can't wait to get started," Everard Goodman, chairman of Tops Estates, says. "Due to the strength and character of Scottish people who stuck it out when the steelworks closed, Corby now has a brilliant mixed economy. People are entitled to a better town centre."

He says the policy of Tops Estates was to buy centres

which were either in a high-demand or a low-supply area, such as Crawley and Basildon, or on the threshold of economic resurgence, such as Dewsbury or Corby. A number of factors, including the new M1-A1 link road, had influenced the company's decision to buy the town centre.

The five-year scheme is expected to get underway soon with the re-siting of the open-air market. It will be moved to Queen's Square, which will become a light, airy, covered market with its tree-shade protected. A financial services centre will be developed in the market square. Spencer Court, the financial district, will be the pulse of the town centre with upgraded shops and tree-lined promenades and courtyards. Phase two will see a start

being made later this year on the new retail centre, to be called Prince William Shopping Plaza. The 150,000 sq ft development will enable a 50 per cent increase in shopping volume.

Later phases will bring further improvements to retail and office accommodation, upgrading of the library and taxi ranks and relocation of the bus station. The main artery, Corporation Street, will be covered with glazed roofing. Extensive landscaping and strategic lighting will be used to generate an intimate area.

Lawrie Winter, of the Seifert Group, says: "The careful consideration given to the space between buildings and use of plants, signs and lighting will give us the opportunity to recreate an elegant town centre of which Corby citizens can be proud."

Irene Farnsworth

'It is due to the character of the Scottish people that Corby now has a brilliant mixed economy'

Theme park 'go-ahead'

THE construction of WonderWorld, the much-delayed theme park planned for former steelworks land on the edge of Corby, should get underway by the end of the month, according to Lord Eden of Winton, the project chairman.

The most recent attempt to raise £90 million for the £220 million first phase of the project — it could cost £1 billion in total — fell through. Now a private international trust, primarily drawing finance from North American sources, has come forward. Lord Eden says the go-ahead could come soon.

His assurance comes against a background of growing local unease that led Corby District Council in February to threaten to withdraw its support for the scheme. Kelvin Glendinning, leader of the council, said at the time: "We have believed in the project for 10 years, but it remains surrounded by uncertainty which must be resolved."

The council wanted to see work start by May 1. Lord Eden says: "We still expect that we will be within the agreed timetable."

Bouygues, of France, Europe's biggest construction



Lord Eden: progress made

company, which has a £5 million equity stake in WonderWorld, is ready to start work as soon as financing is in place. There is also equity support from Brent Walker and BET in Britain.

Lord Eden said: "Despite the passage of time, the concept of WonderWorld stands up remarkably well. Our core customers will be drawn from Britain, but it will also be a pan-European attraction."

The spin-off for Corby, from extra jobs to tourist income, would be immense. Construction is expected to take 39 months.

Derek Harris

"I CAN HEAR REALLY WELL IT'S BRILLIANT"



Paula Novak, a photographic model from Southampton had been hard of hearing from childhood. Paula saw the tiny Scrivens mini-aid advertised in a Sunday paper. "That's for me" she thought "with a tiny aid like that I needn't be camera shy because nobody will see it."

"It's almost invisible"
"Scrivens moulded the aid to perfectly fit my ear so it's very comfortable. I hardly know it's there most of the time. And nobody else knows I'm wearing it because it's hidden by my hair. It's wonderful to have all these photos taken without any sign that I'm wearing an aid. It's been a great boost to my self-confidence."

"A big difference"

"Now I don't have to say 'what?' or 'what did you say?' all the time. It's much easier to communicate and I never feel left out. Where it's made a big difference is in learning Spanish. I'm having lessons and used to find it really hard to pick up some of the difficult Spanish words. It's so much easier now I can hear my teacher clearly and she's noticed a big improvement in my progress."

"All the little things"

"It's wonderful to hear all the little things I missed before. Like the birds singing. Like the ticking of the clock. Like when I put the indicator on to go left or right in the car. I can hear the ticking noise if it doesn't go off automatically. And I'm a much better neighbour because I don't have the radio on at full blast anymore. Yes, I can hear really well. It's brilliant."

Like Paula Novak, and thousands of other people all over the country, you can forget bulky, old fashioned hearing aids. Thanks to Scrivens and the marvel of the micro-chip, people who were hard of hearing are enjoying better hearing than they dreamed possible.

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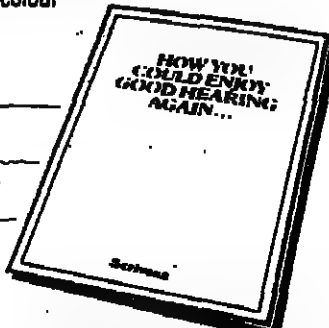
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Isabel Wolff on the increasing commercial exploitation of Aboriginal paintings

Dash for desert dots

One art form that has flourished for more than 50,000 years is only just beginning to catch on. The Australian Aborigines, whose people have been painting, sculpting and carving since the Stone Age, are now seeing their work filling art galleries, museums and smart drawing rooms across the Western world.

Although the bark paintings and totemic carvings of Australia's "top end" are very saleable, it is the dot paintings of the central desert which are making the most impact. Done in acrylic on large canvases, these have been seen by some as constituting a new school of Australian abstract art. But despite the preponderance of highly coloured dots, squiggles, circles and broken lines, abstract is the one thing they are not.

The paintings are in fact religious maps. They transpose on to canvas the traditional designs created on the ground at sacred ceremonies: mosaics of stones, bark and twigs which are ritually erased by milling feet.

To the untutored eye they look colourfully chaotic, but once you know what the component parts symbolize, you can easily decode them. Circles stand for water holes, clouds or composites; U-shapes represent men and women sitting; wavy lines can be rain-water or snakes.

The paintings have one common theme: they all relate stories of the "Dreamtime" of Aboriginal mythology, when ancient beings roamed the world, singing the landscape and everything in it into existence. There are many hundreds of dreamings — "kangaroo dreaming", "sweet potato dreaming", "bush cabbage

dreaming" — and these are passed down through families.

As the artists work, they sing and chant the songs and stories associated with these myths. No one may paint another person's dreaming, nor is it permitted, under pain of death, to paint any secret or proscribed designs. In Alice Springs, one of the main centres of Aboriginal art, elders of the Papunya tribe regularly police the galleries to check that no one is breaking the rules.

Aboriginal artists such as Clifford Possum, Bessie Liddle and Timmy Japangardi have been doing "dot" paintings since the movement started in the early Seventies. So why is it that the art world is only now beginning to accept "dot" painting? Chris Anderson of the South Australia Museum was the co-curator of the "Dreamings" exhibition which has just returned to Adelaide after a sell-out tour of the United States. It is, he says, the combination of an apparent modernism with an ancient cultural and anthropological pedigree that has made dot paintings so sought after.

"People don't just want pretty pictures; they don't want art for art's sake any more. They want meaning in art, and here are paintings which do look very pleasing, yet come out of a rich and strange cultural context."

Critics have had great difficulty in evaluating Aboriginal work. In America they seemed unsure whether to appreciate it in visual or anthropological terms. No doubt a consensus will emerge, but in the meantime there is a risk of overproduction. Given the conventional career prospects of the average Aborigine, it is hardly surprising that so many —

more than 6,000 — are starting to paint. But this means that the market is in danger of being flooded with mediocre work.

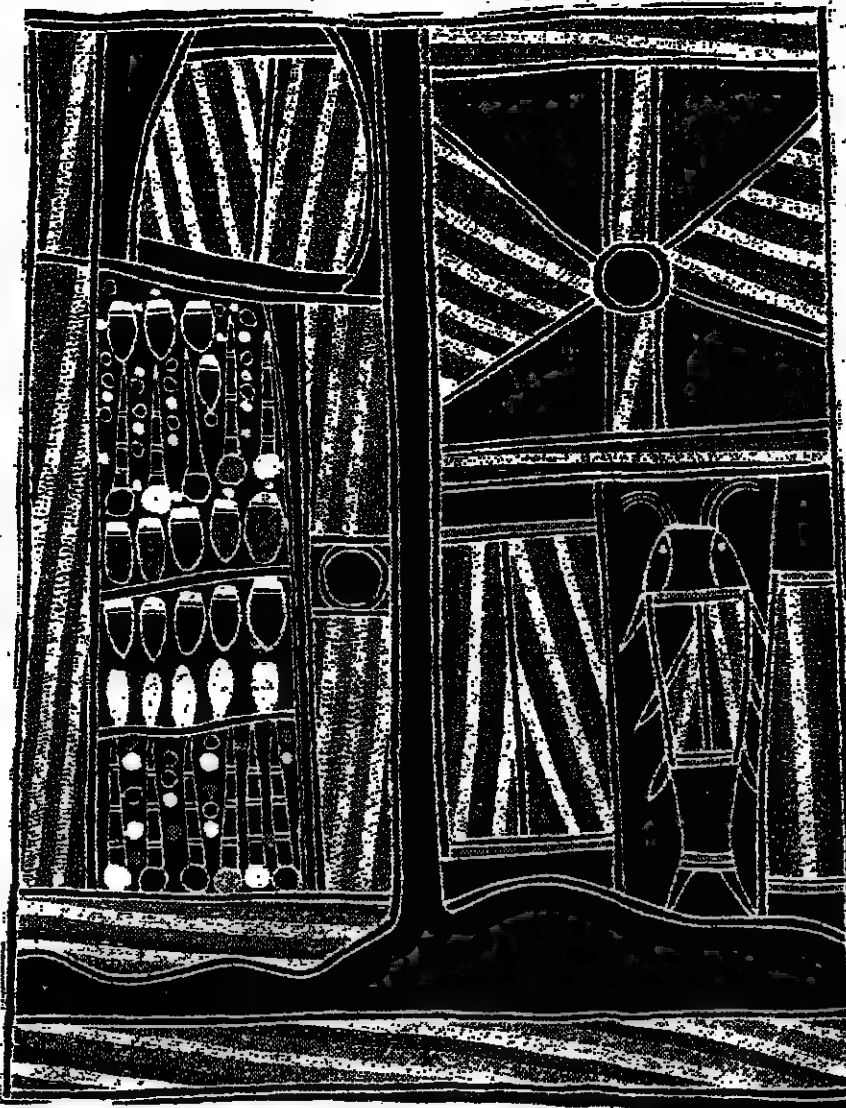
Another problem is the exploitation of the artists, given the wide price differentials in Australia and internationally. A painting bought for \$600 in Alice Springs might sell for five times that much in New York or Los Angeles. "No one really seems to know what they're worth. People are just trying to get what they can," Anderson says.

That may be good news for investors and dealers, who know that they can buy cheap in one place and sell expensive in another, but it means that the painters often get a raw deal. They have reacted to the uncertainty by setting up artists' co-operatives to fix prices and regulate quality.

Doubts have been expressed in the Aboriginal community as to whether or not the art business is really a good thing. Freda Glynn, who runs CAAMA, the Aboriginal radio station in Alice Springs, is philosophical. "Some people might say that we are selling our culture, but the point about the art is that it comes from within us — we're the only ones who can do it."

"It's not like working on a cattle station, or a brick-factory or a farm, which is imposed on us. The art belongs to us, just as the dreamings belong to us, and it's something we can succeed in on our own."

• "Songlines", an exhibition of Aboriginal art, continues at Rebecca Hossack's Gallery, 35 Windmill St, London W1 (01-409 3599) until Saturday.



Abstract or religious map? "Sacred places at Milindjarr", by David Malangi

Against natural justice?

TELEVISION
Sheridan Morley

NOTHING makes me feel quite so alienated in a television audience as a moral dilemma which cannot fully grasp. A specially extended 30-minute *First Tuesday* (ITV) last night told in ten minutes the story of Sonia Palmer, a lone and feisty female fighter, in the best Willy Russell traditions of *Shirley Valentine* and *Educating Rita* but without the laughs.

The dilemma here was simple enough and apparently understood by the medical profession though not, I have to say, by me. In 1985, Sonia's husband, Dave, died of cancer. Throughout their seven-year marriage, they had tried unsuccessfully to have children, and before Dave died he left his sperm frozen in a hospital. Written instructions that it should be used for his widow's in-vitro fertilization.

His death, however, caused the Manchester hospital where the sperm was stored to go into ethical panic. They could not, they decided, authorize such posthumous insemination. The Warnock committee had ruled that such a process would cause "profound psychological problems for both mother and child". It was agreed, however, that the sperm could be released to any other hospital willing to carry out the treatment.

A year later, Professor Robert Winston of the Hammersmith Hospital agreed to consider the case, though even he (as he admitted) delayed for five more years in the fervent hope that Sonia would change her mind. When it was clear she was not going to do any such thing, he went ahead with the operation.

The questions he raised were never really answered, but were obviously potent enough still to cause considerable doubt: what is different about a woman having a baby in this situation from a woman who has a baby after the father has, for instance, been killed in a car crash during the pregnancy?

The issue seems to be conception after death, and it is evidently still unresolved, although you could surely bring a case to any human rights tribunal when the wishes of both parents are as clear as those of Dave and Sonia. In the end, tragically, it did not work out, and Sonia still does not have her baby, but the distress she was caused by the delay, and the feeling of ethical unacceptability, should be alleviated by a reconsideration of the Warnock ruling.

Army Lives (BBC 2) promises to be a subtly subversive look at military traditions; the first film in the series was made by three daughters of the regiment (Marie Thomas, Shirley Taylor and Juliet Stevenson). All of them evidently believe that the army has a good deal to answer for in its interference with family life, and above all in its refusal to accept women as anything more than wives.

Like a Japanese car firm, it expects employees' spouses to exist only in the shadow of husband and company; and despite minor rebellions over the last five years it looks as though there is a long route march ahead towards any kind of sexual equality or marital tolerance.

Russia's mad, mad world of blind man's buff

THEATRE
Benedict Nightingale

Marya
Old Vic

HERE is another reminder of what Russia lost when Stalin's lackeys smelt a flowering of the nation's drama. They drove Mayakovsky to suicide, Andreyev into exile, and Bulgakov, Olesha and Svirids to seek refuge in what another wronged Soviet playwright ruefully called "the genre of silence". That was Isaac Babel, author of the marvellous *Mya*, who was accused of being a spy, tortured, given a 20-minute "trial" in Beria's office, and shot.

Mya was of course not performed in 1934, when Babel wrote it. It was clearly too tolerant of "class enemies", too disrespectful towards the proletariat, too frank about a time Stalin wished to idealize: in other words, too wry and true. Imagine Chekhov collaborating with Gogol on a tragicomedy about the aftermath of the October Revolution, and you have the feel of *Mya*.

That feel is well caught in Roger Mitchell's overdue revival. Even the scene-changes evoke a hectic, chaotic era. Steam pours from the



Surviving revolution: Allan Corduner, left, and Julie Legrand

wings to a confused sound of clanking, wailing and crooning, while anonymous figures push onto the half-lit stage a disintegrating set, an old stove, or a stretch of crumbling wall. This is a context in which black-marketeers can plausibly flourish, exhausted officials interrogate their one-time betters, princesses sell their bodies, and mad things happen. Somehow, it is all too likely that a reckless, tipsy ex-captain would casually force himself on a gen-

eral's daughter, then shoot the fellow officer who drunkenly proclaims, "you don't go having women when you've got the clap".

There is nothing sensational, stagey or contrived about that particular scene, or about the play itself. Insofar as there is a plot, it involves Geoffrey Bayldon's ageing General Mukovnin, who is generous enough to welcome a revolution which impoverishes and splits his family. His daughter Ludmila — in Julie Legrand's

performance a shuffling Sloane out of her emotional depth — ends up raped and under arrest for complicity in murder. Another daughter, Marya, who has become a political officer with the Red Army, never appears on stage, but gives the play point as well as its title. This was both the best and the worst of times; fulfilling for some, destructive for others, bewildering for everyone.

Allan Corduner, Matthew Marsh and Richard Haddon-Haines are maybe the most striking of those lost in this game of existential blind man's buff; but the evening neither calls for stars nor gets them here. Rather, it is a play in which a nobody may unexpectedly enter, briefly establish himself as a somebody, and then disappear. The ending, for instance, belongs partly to a poet who the revolution has put three inches of dirt on the Mukovnins' floor, and partly to a new tenant who worries about her pregnancy while warily turning the electric chandelier on and off.

And here, surely, is Babel's point. This is upheaval as most Russians must have experienced it; history — particular, local, insignificant — as seen from inside an anthill which will, you feel, survive any amount of boiling water.

Fresh approach to these star-crossed lovers

Jeremy Kingston

Eden
Riverside Studios

TWENTIES New York is a long from mid-Victorian Wimpole Street in time, class and class, but a ferocious father can terrorize his family as effectively in one as in

the other. How his children, wife and eventual son-in-law suffer, rebel and suffer again from his rigid principles is the theme of Steve Carter's tense yet explosively funny drama.

An earlier play by this New York author opened London's first Black Theatre Season back in 1983, and I do not know if any play that season or since has gone

up West for an extended run. This one should certainly do so.

On the other hand, I count myself lucky to have seen it here, played before a predominantly black audience who laughed and applauded, groaned and all but hissed the tyrant with the uninhibited enthusiasm white audiences nowadays display only for pantomime.

Carter finds a fresh variant on the Romeo and Juliet theme. We are familiar with love across the Arab/Jew divide, between Catholic and Protestant, and innumerable versions of black and white. Here it is love and stress between shades of black: the easy-going Eustace, newly arrived on 63rd Street from the Deep South and working in his aunt's pool room, falls for Annetta, daughter of an ambitious West Indian.

The rivalry and mutual dislike between these racial groupings is new to most of us, I venture to guess, and bursts out in contemptuous slurs that gain an extra turn of pain from being rooted in some truth.

The native Black Americans see Joseph Barton as arrogant, and mock his devotion to the back-to-Africa cause of Marcus Garvey, at the time of the play imprisoned in Atlanta.

For his part Joseph wants his family kept unpolluted by the ne'er-do-well submissiveness he sees all around him. He dreams of a future strength made powerful through education.

When we first encounter Burt Caesar's grim, lip-jutting, roaring Joseph, anchored by his injured feet in a basin of brine, he is quizzing his four children on their studies, a sample question being "What was the name of Hannibal's father?"

Excellent set by Clary Salandy against a bright cyclorama of New York, where the points of the Empire State and Chrysler buildings jab at the sky, the action moves fluidly between the living rooms of the two apartments and the roof where the young lovers safely, briefly meet.

Alby James's direction is superb, while Carter's dialogue moves with similar confidence between comedy, grim physical abuse and delicate romance.

The finest example of the skills of both is in the rooftop scene, played with awe and grace by Sylvester Williams and Jaye Griffiths, which then moves with a masterly modulation of tone into a description of the death of Eustace's mother.

DANCE
John Percival
Bolshoi Stars
Orchard, Dartford

A GROUP billed as "Stars of the Bolshoi Ballet" has started a two-month tour of Britain, visiting a remarkably motley collection of venues, from small theatres to large halls up and down the country. At Dartford on Monday, the group proved to be equally varied in age, rank and ability.

It is headed by Natalya Besmertnova, a senior ballerina who begins the evening as Odette in Act II of *Swan Lake*. Her dancing is clear, smooth, precise and rather on the cool side. But it is fair to expect much emotion in the company of the brawny, reliable but bedraggled Yuri Vasyuchenko as partner, Mikhail Gabovich as a Rothbart (once impressive but now grown hammy), and a backing group of 15 mainly, gum sweat.

Besmertnova and Vasyuchenko return later, more feelingly, for a duet from *The Golden Age* among the nine short numbers which make up the second

half of the show. One of them, *Diana and Actaeon*, is much too short: this curious duet is really not worth doing at all if you leave out the solos and cads.

The statutory extract from *Spartacus* has none of the massed effects or bold male solos associated with that ballet. Yuri Vladimirov, once a very fine dancer, has not worn well; he can still act with revolutionary fervour, but it is hard to imagine this thick body and worn face leading the rebels into action. With him as Phrygia in their domestic adagio is Natalia Arkipova: young, personable, sinuous but inexpressive.

The other senior dancer is Maria Bylova, who shows exhilarating speed and crisp small detail in the *Corsair pas de deux*, together with some graciously leashed arm movements.

Among the young dancers, the highly promising Anatoly Kucheruk makes a dashing and handsome Basilio in the *Don Quixote* duet. Maria Filipova, tall and elegant, looks able although not entirely at home in the coy solos she is given from Gossyle's *Elle me surpasse* (with Alexei Lazarev, cheerful and resourceful Cossak), and Mikhail Taivin is bright and sprightly in the extract from *Flames of Paris*.

A voice of age and experience

RECITAL
Hilary Finch

Fischer-Dieskau/Höll
Wigmore Hall

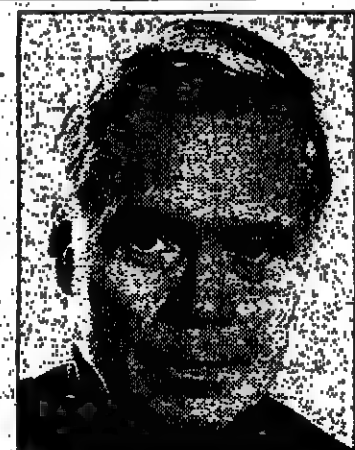
AT 65, Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau is at the point in his career at which he seems to have arrived where he started and known the place for the first time. Well, perhaps not the first: for those eager to monitor his decline or metamorphosis (whichever way you look at it), there is essentially little change from last year or the year before. What we hear is a performance minutely tailored to the voice's physical changes; artistry sometimes tempted to switch to automatic, and a sense of retrospective wisdom suddenly crossed with shafts of epiphanic vision.

The words of Heinrich Heine and the settings of Schubert and Schumann formed the first act of his three-part London manifestation this week, again with the indefatigable and revelatory piano playing of Hartmut Höll. With lowering brows, they turned from the pleasures of welcome to the vision of Atlas at the start of strenuously dark *Lieder* from the *Schwanengesang*.

The sense of physical traversal, the slight tug in the upper register of the voice, was transmuted into the sting of *Schmerzen*, just as the passing moments of unsteadiness in the still lines of "Ihr Bild" and "Am Meer" became tremors of tears. The nightmare vision of "Der Doppelgänger" concentrated into its blanched vowels and spitting consonants the almost feverish intensity which characterizes not only this song but Fischer-Dieskau's entire performance these days.

It permeated *Dichterliebe*, driving the power of the diaphragm through "Ich grölle nicht" and snarling and spitting its way through the imagined wedding scene. This was Heine at his bitterest, Schumann at his most deeply lacerated.

There were times when simplicity and implication would have been still more telling, but this is not the key to which Fischer-Dieskau is now tuned. Is it consummate artistry in overdrive, or is it the ardent desperation of one who, artistically, has seen all known art? Six intense encores, of fishermen, lotus flowers, *Jungfrauen* and rolling wagons did not vouchsafe an answer. Brahms and Wolf, later this week, will doubtless tell their own tales.



Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau

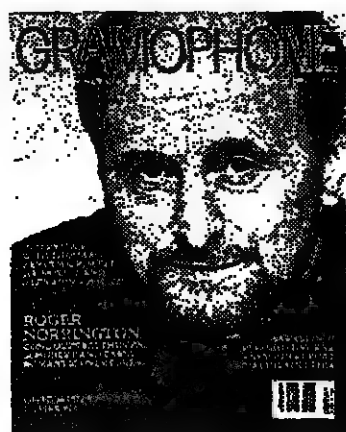
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Help, it's the holidays again

Are term breaks the chance for working mothers to spend more time with their offspring, or the signal for panic? Sarah Drummond has some suggestions

Pupils may be grateful to striking teachers for unexpected holidays; parents rarely are. Working mothers, in particular, will not thank the National Association of Schoolmasters' and Union of Women Teachers for their strike today and for the untimely reminder — just two days before the state sector begins its Easter break — that the best laid of plans for older children can fall apart when schools close down.

The labour shortage that is forcing the Government and businesses to take office cèches, child-care facilities and flexible hours seriously may be all very well for babies and the very young (though some have doubts). But there are those women who juggle their lives to manage without and, for them, term breaks present extra challenges.

On the home front (for which Lady Howe is valiantly battling for concessions) the rhythm and structure that works during the term is often just not adequate for the holidays.

This is particularly noticeable where children have been away at boarding school. Full-time nannies, housekeepers or grandmothers are often not affordable, desirable or available during holidays. So just how do working mothers cope?

One career woman and mother, Evie Soames, takes her children into the office when they are out of school and justifies it by saying that it is important for them to see and understand their parents' working environment, "so the City is not somewhere mysterious where parents go, the way it was when I was a child". Another, Stephanie Sandell, has found that her children, now teenagers, have become "self-reliant and enterprising". But the positive aspects do not outweigh some very real problems.

Evie Soames is a parliamentary and political consultant, managing director of Charles Barker Watson & Powell. She is married to Sir Andrew Duff Gordon, a part-time member of the House of Lords, who divides his "time between" their homes in Wiltshire and London. They have three sons: William, aged 12; Thomas, aged 9; and Frederick, aged 8. 21-year-old Cosmo, Sir Andrew's son by his previous marriage, also spends a good deal of time with the family.

Nanny (with the family since William was born) left in September when her youngest charge joined his brothers at boarding school. "She did everything — from sewing on buttons to buying laundry paper," Miss Soames says. "So I've not yet much experience."

For the first Nanny-less holidays, she had arranged a New Zealand guide to help, but just before the end of term, she arrived in her office to find a yellow sticker announcing that "Mary-Anne has changed her mind". "I spent the next two hours gazing



A rare day at home: Evie Soames takes Freddy, aged 8, and her other sons into the office during holidays

at the window in tears," she says, "and when the boys broke up, she took them into the office with her. They're good at filling, they tidy cubboards, they sort the *Espresso*. Journals. They've got incisive minds. They know how to use the photocopier, they discovered how to play a tune on the computer before anyone else in the office, and they're good with the word processor."

The scheme is not without its drawbacks. "There's a television in

nannies in Kensington (01 225 1555) says it normally takes them about half an hour to find someone. "We have a never ending supply of temporary girls who are ready to work at any time. However, if it is an emergency we will only send someone who has worked for us before and is tried and tested."

According to Hovey, her girls are located all over Britain, so emergencies can be handled as well in Scotland as in Kensington. Charges are £40 a day plus travelling expenses. Kate Herbert-Hunting, managing director of Universal Aunts (01 351 5767) says that rather than let down a client, her office staff will often leave their desks and step into the breach. It has branches in London, Wales, Dublin, East Anglia, Lincolnshire, Southampton, Oxford, Camberley and Chesham. "We don't charge an extra fee for emergencies, although if there were more than four children we might want to send two people." Living-in fees are £20 a day for up to three children, or £4.50 an hour for someone giving daily help.

The Kids Clubs Network (until recently known as the National Out of School Alliance) at 279 Whitechapel Road, London E1 1BY

(01 247 5009) will provide you a list of "kids clubs" in your area, providing activities for school-aged children during holiday times. Phone your local area Museum Council which should be able to give you details of children's activities in museums in your area. Get a copy of *Let's Do It*, a guide to activity holidays (£2.95) including a children's section, available at major book stores. If you're in London, there are numerous local play associations such as the Westminster Play Association at 147 Church Street, London W2, (01 258 3817), which looks after children full-time while you work and provides them with stimulating recreational activities for a mere £3 registration fee. Ask at local private nurseries and nursery schools, community centres and village halls. Often these will be offering some sort of children's activities or a holiday play scheme. Subscribe to the *New Zealand News UK* at 25 Royal Opera Arcade, Haymarket, SW1V 4UY (01 930 6461; £20 per annum) a glossy newspaper for New Zealanders in this country, said by many to be the best and most reliable source of temporary help.

friends do just that; there is a lot to ask. Trish Morse, a dentist who lives in Edinburgh with her husband and three sons, aged 11, 9 and 4, agrees that it is very difficult to find people who will help during the holidays. She has placed an advertisement in the *New Zealand News UK*, and her current help is "an adopted granny who lives locally". She works for the Lothian Health Board three days a week, and specializes in doing children's teeth which means

that her work schedule is often busier during the school holidays. She says she has tried every combination of nannies, au pairs, students and mothers helps, both living in and living out. "It gets harder as the children get older — because there are far more spontaneous invitations and more freedom. Someone needs to fetch and carry and someone is needed at home."

As the children become older, and in-house help is dispensed with, there are different problems. Where are the children during the day? Are they safe? Are they sitting in front of the television, vegetating? Stephanie Sandell, who works as an administrator in a small investment bank, dispensed with her au pair when her daughter Alexandra, now almost 15, went away to boarding school last September. Her son, Adam, aged 17, is also at a boarding school.

Mrs Sandell, a native of Illinois, who is separated from her English husband and lives in London, originally returned to work when the children were aged 6 and 3. While the children were at day school, they both learnt to use buses and the Underground and get around independently. But she worries about the lack of supervision during the school holidays, the aimless wandering around High Street Kensington, in west London, and especially the visits to friends "off the edge of the known map".

She always says goodbye before she leaves for work in the morning (and they usually sleep on), and she leaves them lists of chores and shopping.

But, on the whole, making sure that she herself is super-organized and managing without extra help works well. "My children are independent and self-reliant. I am very proud of them, but I'm waiting for the day when I come home and find they've cooked the supper!"

Katharine Hart is principal viola player with the Academy of Ancient Music, and she also plays with the London Classical Players. Her husband, Martin Kingsbury, is vice chairman at Faber's (where he heads the musical publications), and they live in London with their daughter Eleanor, aged 11, son Edmund, aged 14 (he is at boarding school), and the au pair.

Playing in concerts abroad as well as all over Britain, rehearsals, recording and performing take up a great deal of time.

"It's all a question of juggling," Katharine Hart says. She arranges for the children to stay with well-spread country cousins during the holidays, and she sends them off on courses which suit their own interests.

Her husband is hugely supportive and a local friend who is a professional cook is commissioned "when things get dire". She also has a very supportive mother-in-law.

Judy Haythornthwaite is on the receiving end of children with working mothers. She runs what she likes to call "a home-camp job" in Suffolk. There are 15 horses on the premises, plenty of dogs, mud, open spaces and quintessentially English country life. The sea is eight miles away. "I treat the children as I would my own," she says. (Her own are adults.)

There is lots of riding, stable jobs, and mucking-in on all fronts. They are, she says, "completely exhausted by the end of the day — and there is never a dull moment." The camp operates all year round, taking boys and girls from 10 to 16. "We can only manage four at a time because the house is small. This is home from home."

BRIEFLY

A round-up of news, views and information

A healthy marriage

The growing demand for vegetarian wedding breakfasts has disclosed a gap in the catering market, a gap which French vegetarian chef Roselyne Masselin is only too happy to fill. You may have seen her recently on *Food and Drink*, the BBC2 television programme, making a layered fruit terrine using the seaweed derivative, agar, instead of gelatine. Mlle Masselin, a vegetarian for 11 years — not easy when you come from Normandy, she admits — has been inundated with requests for her creative vegetarian wedding catering. Her company, Catering Imaginaire (16 Belmont Court, Belmont Hill, St Albans, Herts AL1 1RB, 0727 37643) produces elaborate pies filled with hazelnuts, courgettes and leeks, spinach and feta cheese filo triangles, croustades with olive pâté and cherry tomatoes, almond and smoked tofu pâtés, peach and almond and tahini dips, imaginative salads and flans. Prices vary, but a fairly luxurious vegetarian banquet can be obtained for between £10 and £15 a head and carnavores, Mlle Masselin boasts, are often convinced that her pies and pâtés are full of meat.

Sleep easy

How to get young children to sleep is one of the most perplexing problems of early parenthood, and nothing is more exhausting and infuriating than having to deal with a child who simply will not settle down. Now two American researchers in Arkansas, Dr Lisa Adams and Dr Vaughn Rickert, have provided confirmation of the belief shared by well-trained nannies in an orderly bedtime routine. Positive routines, where a series of between four and seven set steps lead to bedtime (taking a bath, brushing teeth, reading a book, saying goodnight to toys) were found to be most effective at quelling tantrums and establishing a good sleep pattern. Unruly children could also eventually be settled by a programme of "graduated extinction" — parents ignore the child's cries for increasingly long periods, and offered minimal comfort when they did come. Not surprisingly the parents in the "positive routines" group found that their children improved faster than those whose parents practised "graduated extinction".

Easter fare

You can buy your Easter wardrobe at wholesale prices at the Kensington Cash and Carry Easter Fashion Fair which opens at The Kensington Town Hall, Hornton Street, London W8 on Good Friday April 13 at 10am and closes on Easter Saturday at 6pm (admission £1). As well as clothes from companies with youthful appeal such as Jelly Designs, Sphinx Leather

and Nasty (dresses from under £20 and skirts and shorts from £10), there will be cosmetics and skincare products from Paradise Cosmetics, a "cruelty-free" range.

Books on show

The libraries of great houses are rarely open to the public. Now Burghley House in Stamford, Lincolnshire — called "the largest and grandest house of the first Elizabethan age" — is sharing the treasures of its libraries of 17th, 18th and 19th century books in a series of exhibitions. The displays will include the set of gouache illustrations of tulips and other flowers by Nicolas Robert, once in the Royal Library of King Louis XVI of France; Eleazar Albin's *Natural History of Insects*, its 100 plates engraved from life and hand-coloured; and a first edition of William Curtis's *Flora Londinensis*, of 1777, probably the first colour plates of the national flora of England and used as a source by many porcelain and textile designers. "The Burghley Books" will be open daily from Friday April 13 to Sunday October 7, 11am-5pm, and admission — which includes the house with its rich and royal history — is £3.30 for adults, £2 for children under 14.

Quote me



"When you are lying drunk at the airport, you're Irish. When you win an Oscar, you're British." — Brenda Fricker

Dieter's dream

Losing weight effortlessly has long been the American Dream, so that is an appropriate name for a new "99 per cent fat-free" and completely cholesterol-free ice-cream launched this week in the United States. Unlike the earlier "Simple Pleasures", a low-fat dairy dessert using the Simplesse fat substitute, American Dream contains no fat substitute but has had its fat removed by purely mechanical means, says a spokeswoman for Dreyer's, the manufacturers. The company claims to have "developed" a unique protein concentration process that enables us to use all the same dairy ingredients traditionally found in ice cream yet minimize fat and eliminate cholesterol. The new ice-cream comes in flavours including "rocky road", chocolate chip, mocha almond fudge and toasted almond and seems entirely too good to be true. If it is a success in America, Dreyer's spokeswoman says there is no reason why we should not experience the American Dream here in Britain.

Victoria McKee

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In session with the desert court

Once a year the Sultan of Oman leaves his palace to drive into the desert, where his country's tribal elders gather beneath traditional tents, and wait to have their say. Ranged alongside the Sultan, in unassuming robes, but carrying rifles, are the 17 members of his cabinet. If there is a

complaint about the conduct of a civil servant, or about a pension unpaid, the appropriate minister is called forward to answer the charge. The tribal elders take for granted the right to ask for anything they might need — beginning with justice. In *The Times* on Saturday Brian James reports on a form of government unafraid to present itself for judgement.

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Lambeth's delight at capping escape

Azerbaijan aid, page 8
Letters, page 15
Anatol Lieven, page 24

"But obviously we would be looking at ways to challenge the Secretary of State in the first place before trying to save the money. The whole idea of capping is a negation of democracy."

By Michael Hornsby, Agriculture Correspondent

News can

Mr Alan Cridford, a union shop steward, objected to the announcement that an industrial dispute caused the cancellation. Mr Bob Constantine, a presenter, said staff had "just a gun" to be able to put on the show: "We believe there was time to do so."

Solution to Puzzle No 18,258

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- (9).
- 17 Summarise notes about refueling point on first motorway in Australia (9).
- 18 All the main points found in the bulletin (8).
- 20 City in opposition to old Australian mass trial (6).
- 21 Suffices in back? Rum message is the answer (7).
- 22 Calm old assembly, held in silence (6).
- 24 A quarter of tongue? (5).
- 26 A horse in the St Leger - a certain winner (5).

Answers on page 22

| National traffic and roadworks | |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| National motorways | 737 |
| West Country | 738 |
| Wales | 739 |
| Midlands | 740 |
| East Anglia | 741 |
| North-west England | 742 |
| North-east England | 743 |
| Scotland | 744 |
| Northern Ireland | 745 |

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Bristol 7.48 pm to 6.38 am
Edinburgh 7.57 pm to 6.34 am

Manchester 7.49 pm to 6.34 am
Penzance 7.58 pm to 6.51 am

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|--|----------------------|--------------------|
| | Sun rises 6.30 am | Sun sets 7.38 p |
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| | | |
|---|----------------------|-----------------------|
| | Moon sets 4.30 am | Moon rises 1.25 pm |
| Full Moon April 18 | | |

TODAY AM HT PM

| | | | |
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| London Bridge | 9.34 | 6.0 | 10.04 |
| Aberdeen | 9.42 | 3.3 | 10.53 |
| Ayr | 2.35 | 9.6 | 3.29 |

| | | | |
|----------|-------|-----|-------|
| Dover | 7.18 | 5.2 | 8.08 |
| Falmouth | 12.44 | 4.2 | 1.44 |
| Gleason | 7.40 | 4.1 | 10.02 |

| | | | |
|----------|------|-----|------|
| Harwich | 7.43 | 3.3 | 8.13 |
| Holyhead | 8.43 | 4.5 | 7.43 |
| Mal | 9.16 | 5.8 | 8.28 |

Tide in metres

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TEMPUS

Dice are still loaded against Mecca

MECCA has had the kind of luck one would not wish on a bookmaker, let alone a casino operator. No sooner had it sealed the £750 million acquisition of Pleasureama in October 1988 than interest rates began to take off, the London casino market was torpedoed by Grand Metropolitan's sudden withdrawal and brewers trimmed their spending plans pending the outcome of the Monopolies Commission's deliberations.

As a result, the management has been unable to get on top of its worrying debt mountain. Gearing post the bid was 20 points higher than expected, at 80 per cent, and by the end of 1989 was 30 points worse than predicted, at 110 per cent.

While it had the wisdom to cap its borrowings at around 12.5 per cent early on, the board's inability to complete a substantial chunk of its disposal programme to date means that the group entered 1990 with about a third of its £450 million debt at short-term rates.

If Mecca has difficulty making headway with its current £250 million disposal programme, it will face an interest bill of about £50 million this year, enough to obliterate an expected 10 per cent improvement in trading profits. No wonder the market reacted so violently, leaving the shares 31p lower at 79p.

Understandably, Mecca is making a song and dance of the 25-30 per cent return on investment from its bingo, holiday and themed catering

operations, but if the benefits are not to disappear straight down the throats of its bankers it must move swiftly to unload its London casinos and, possibly, its amusement machine operations.

Unfortunately, casinos are hardly a sellers' market, with any new buyer facing interminable scrutiny by the gaming authorities — the Clermont sale may not be concluded until September — while publicans have been slow to renew orders for amusement machines.

Assuming no disposals, Mecca can expect a downturn in the pre-tax figure this year, from £91 million to maybe £85 million, suggesting earnings of about 10p a share, and a p/e of 8 at the shares' new level. Without the disposals it is hard to see a recovery in the short term.

Meggit

MEGGITT'S £120 million bid for United Scientific Holdings, the tank and gunship manufacturer, in the autumn, may have cost the acquisitive engineering conglomerate its independence. Although Meggit was in control of USH, it backed away from the deal when it became fully aware of USH's difficulties — made worse by the breaching of the Berlin Wall during the course of the bid.

The debacle has devastated Meggit's rating. The shares now stand at 79p, having fallen by 40 per cent since the summer. They are back to the



Leading expansion at TIP Europe: Jim Cleary, chairman, says that the wisdom of renting trailers is being recognized and is looking forward to business in Russia.

level they were five years ago, despite Meggit producing average annual growth in earnings per share of 15 per cent in the intervening period.

The rating is important to Meggit because it is a company built on acquisitions. Since Mr Ken Coates and Mr Nigel McCorkell arrived at the machine tool distributor, in 1983, they have bought almost £200 million worth of companies.

To make matters worse, progress at Meggit decelerated sharply last year. Although it reported a 23 per cent rise in profits to £26

million for 12 months to December, that included a property disposal gain of £2.2 million. Excluding this, eps would have fallen 0.4p to 10p, rather than rising by 6 per cent to 11p as published.

Analysts expect profits to rise to £29 million and earnings to go up to 12.3p in 1990, for a prospective p/e ratio of six. The fact that Meggit bid for USH suggests that Messrs Coates and McCorkell feel it is time for the company to make another major acquisition. But how can it with that sort of rating and at a time when interest rates are so high?

Meggit, now capitalized at £120 million, is boxed in and a bid from an engineering company wanting to dilute its defence exposure might come as a relief to many holders who bought their shares when the price was much higher. To be safe, though, a bidder would need to put its hands on BTR's 18.3 per cent stake.

TIP Europe

TIP Europe, the transport group, is trucking virtually every highway between the Pennines and the Ural — and doing very nicely, thank you.

Pre-tax profits for the half-year to January 31 rose from £5.14 million to £7.56 million, with the benefits of recent acquisitions in Holland and Eastern Europe (including Russia) yet to come.

The chill breezes affecting British retailing are not helping sentiment, but TIP is compensating for this by increased European business.

The interest charge has shot up, and gearing has risen from 230 per cent at year-end to 290 per cent. TIP says that it is relaxed because of an interest cover of 2.3 times.

Higher borrowings saw net interest payable up to £5.77 million at January 31 — from £1.6 million at the last half and from £5.8 million for all of the previous financial year. However, the overall tax charge, now a mere 15 per cent, should remain in the low teens for some time.

Mr Jim Cleary, chairman, says that the wisdom of renting/leasing trailers is getting through to a wider audience, and hints at further expansion in Europe. The step into Russia will bring rewards in time, and a strong base in West Germany gives TIP a launch pad for East Germany. Unless the interest burden is addressed by the year-end through a financing package, growth in pre-interest profits will be less aggressive at net earnings level. Still, pre-tax profits of £16 million (£12.7 million) should be feasible, to put the shares — down 16p at 175p on the interest cost — on a prospective rating of 11.9.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Laing urges rejection of revised offer

LAING Properties has urged shareholders to reject a revised offer from Mr Elliott Bernard's Pall Mall, a joint venture of P&O and Chelmsfield, claiming that the net asset value of the group is 910p a share compared with the 725p offer.

Mr Brian Chilver, the chairman, said Pall Mall was trying to take advantage of the depressed property market by bidding much less than the company was worth. He said the bidder had realized there was considerable value to be unlocked if Laing was broken-up and sold. The offer closes on April 12.

Peek up 36% Restaurants serve £10.1m

ACQUISITIONS and higher interest receipts helped Peek's electronics and technology group, reveal pre-tax profits up 36 per cent to £11.3 million in the year to end-December, on turnover up 30 per cent to £67.5 million. Earnings per share edged up from 7.8p to 7.9p. The final dividend is 2.3p, making a total of 3.3p (3p).

Sharp fall at Delaney

SHARES in Delaney Group, the furniture maker and shop fitter, slid from 25p to 20p after a drastic fall in pre-tax profits from £2.9 million to £189,000 in 1989, in keeping with a warning issued late last year.

Sales fell 25 per cent in the furniture division and despite only a 5 per cent decline in turnover from shop fitting, profits more than halved. Overall sales were slightly down at £24.8 million (£26 million) after the building products division increased turnover from £9.8 million to £11 million. The final dividend was 0.2p (2.6p), making a total of 1.5p.

Sema keys in Air broker up £17.5m profit to £433,000

SEMA Group, the Anglo-French software house, made pre-tax profits of £17.5 million last year, up from £12.9 million in 1988, on sales of £293 million, up from £267 million. The total dividend is 2.4p, up from 1.44p, after earnings of 11.6p (8.4p). Sema says that interest rate rises may affect progress in some sectors.

Shandwick 'largest'

SHANDWICK, the public relations group, has completed its expansion plans and now claims to be the world's largest public relations consultant. The group said earnings before interest and tax for the six months to January 1990 were £2.6 million (£2.6 million) and earnings per share rose to 5p (4.4p). The interest charge has risen from £330,000 to £1.4 million. The interim dividend rose to 0.8p (0.67p).

Rush for HK Telecom

From Lian Ya, Hong Kong

ALL Hong Kong Telecom shares sold by the colony's government to the London stockbroker firm Smith New Court were snapped up within hours by international institutions.

The Hong Kong government announced after the market's close it had sold its remaining 3.4 per cent stake in the telecommunications group for HK\$1.85 billion

(£145.4 million). The price of HK\$4.90 a share for the 377,544,752 shares sold represented a 7.5 per cent discount to Hong Kong's closing price of HK\$5.30, down five cents from Monday.

The Government's disposal followed the sale of another 3.4 per cent holding to Cable and Wireless for around HK\$1.7 billion last month.

Cable and Wireless now owns 58.6 per cent, followed by the Peking-backed China International Trust and Investment Corp which bought a 20 per cent stake last month.

Hong Kong Telecom is the largest listed company in the colony, with a franchise to provide Hong Kong's telephone service until 1995 and its international services until 2006.

Reserves fall by \$429m

By Colin Northrup, Economics Correspondent

THE official gold and foreign currency reserves fell by an underlying \$429 million last month, indicating the scale of the Bank of England's defence of the pound in the foreign exchange market.

Facing his first Budget, Mr John Major, the Chancellor, sought to avoid raising interest rates to counter short-term weakness in sterling, preferring instead to let the

reserves take the strain. The underlying reserves figure, which is net of borrowings and payments, is widely regarded by economists as the best published indicator of official intervention in the currency markets. In February, it showed a \$114 million rise.

The Treasury said reserves, after annual revaluation, stood at \$39.3 billion at the end of March — a historically

high level. Although the underlying fall in March was above the \$300 million decline anticipated in the City, the financial markets largely ignored the figure.

● The US index of leading indicators dropped 1 per cent in February — its steepest fall since last May. In January, the index rose by 0.2 per cent, revised upwards from the zero change initially reported.

Bodycote inquiry continues

POLICE investigations into a suspected £700,000 fraud at a subsidiary of Bodycote International are continuing, according to Mr Joe Dwek, group chairman.

The possible fraud was discovered after a fire in January destroyed all the accounts of Supercraft (Garmen), a workwear business due to be sold to a Dutch company for £2 million.

It has led to Bodycote restating pre-tax profits for 1988 at £9.83 million rather than £10.1 million. Those for 1989 were static at £9.81 million on sales of £78.9 million (£87.5 million). Earnings per share are down from 26.7p to 26.3p and the total dividend is up 1p to 8p.

YK Pao firms in hotel talks

THE flagship companies of Sir YK Pao, the shipping businessman, are negotiating to buy two US hotel chains from Metropolitan Life Insurance.

World International and Wharf Holdings are holding talks for Compi Hotels and Doubletree Hotels, but have yet to agree a price. The move illustrates the increasing aggressiveness of Hong Kong businessmen in the international hotel industry.

Johnston slips

Pre-tax profits at Johnston Group, the road-maintenance and engineering company, fell to £7.32 million (£8.07 million) in the year to December. Turnover was £107 million (£99.1 million) and the final dividend of 9p, payable July 3, makes 13p (11.2p) on net earnings of 40.33p (48.03p).

Lowndes posts

Lowndes Queensway, the furniture retailer, has appointed Mr Malcolm Fidler as finance director and Mr Anthony Stanworth as personnel director.

Alcan passes

The final dividend has been passed by British Alcan Aluminium after a sharp drop in 1989 pre-tax profits to £32 million (£54 million). Turnover rose to £862 million (£778 million).

Former Opel chief to head General Motors

From John Davis, New York

A FORMER head of General Motors' Opel operations in West Germany has been appointed as the group's new chairman and chief executive.

Mr Robert Stempel, who is currently president, will replace Mr Roger Smith on August 1.

The appointment of three people to join Mr Stempel marks a change in style at GM, with a more committee-type approach to management.

Mr John Smith, currently head of Europe, becomes a vice chairman with Mr Robert Stempel and Mr Lloyd Reuss takes over as president in charge of North America.

COMPANY BRIEFS

BARRETT (HENRY) (Int)
Pre-tax: £8.48m (£3.30m)
EPS: 10.55p (8.15p)
Div: 2p (1.65p)

WONCATER GROUP (Fin)
Pre-tax: £5.03m (£5.01m)
EPS: 14.2p (13.6p)
Div: 2.57p mkg 3.82p

BENNETT & FOUNTAIN
Pre-tax: £0.57m (£2.58m)
EPS: 0.5p (5.02p)
Div: nil (1.35p)

BOCHORE INTL (Fin)
Pre-tax: £2.31m (£1.57m)
EPS: 18.4p (11.3p)
Div: 3.85p mkg 5.55p

IFECO HOLDINGS (Fin)
Pre-tax: £3.43m (£1.44m)
EPS: 7.88p (2.37p)
Div: 2p mkg 3p (1.5p)

SINTROM (Fin)
Pre-tax: £1.04m (£1.82m)
EPS: 5.97p (11.84p)
Div: 1.84p mkg 2.64p

ROSS GROUP (6 months)
Pre-tax: £0.48m (£0.4m)
EPS: 5.41p (7.39p)
Div: Nil (1.2p for year)

MAGNOLIA GROUP (Fin)
Pre-tax: £1.00m (£1.47m)
EPS: 10.91p (19.31p)
Div: 3.85p mkg 5.4p (5p)

ARLEY HOLDINGS (Fin)
Pre-tax: £0.99m (£1.07m)
EPS: 5.3p (9.9p)
Div: 1.4p mkg 2.8p

NORSH (Fin)
Pre-tax: £2.14m (£2.14m)
EPS: 19.5p (25p)
Div: 7p mkg 11.47p (11p)

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Friends of the Elderly
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LONDON SW1W 0LZ.
Registered charity number: 22864



To the Shareholders of Novo-Nordisk A/S

The Company will hold its Annual General Meeting on **Tuesday, April 24, 1990, at 4.30 p.m.** at the Company's headquarters, Novo Allé, Bagsvaerd, Denmark.

Agenda

1. The Board of Directors' report on the Company's activities in the past financial year
2. Presentation of the Financial Statements, Auditors' Report and Annual Report as well as the Consolidated Financial Statements
3. Resolution concerning adoption of Profit and Loss Account and Balance Sheet, hereunder discharge of Management and Board of Directors from their obligations
4. Resolution concerning application of profit according to the adopted Financial Statements
5. Election of members to the Board of Directors
6. Election of auditors
7. Proposals from the Board of Directors
 - a. A proposal from the Board of Directors to leave out the hyphen in the Company's name so that Article 1, section 1, of the Articles of Association is amended as follows:
"The name of the Company is Novo Nordisk A/S"
 - b. A proposal from the Board of Directors to the effect that the Board of Directors until next year's Annual General Meeting be authorised to acquire up to ten per cent of the Company's share capital at a price between 90 and 110 per cent of the official quoted price at the time of acquisition
8. Miscellaneous

The resolution as to adoption of the proposal submitted under Item 7.a. of this Agenda shall be carried by shareholders representing at least 2/3 of the total number of votes in the Company represented at the General Meeting and by at least 2/3 of the votes cast as well as of the voting capital represented at the General Meeting, as provided in Article 10(b) of the Articles of Association.

Admission cards and voting papers are available by postal application or for collection at the Company's office, Novo Allé, DK-2880 Bagsvaerd, Denmark, on all business days between 10 am and 3 pm from April 4 to April 19, 1990, both days inclusive.

Where B-shares are registered by the Company under the holder's name, admission cards and voting papers will be issued directly to a shareholder (stating the nominal value of his/her shares).

In respect of other shares, admission cards and voting papers are issued against production of documentation considered in the opinion of the Company to be satisfactory, e.g. a deposit statement not more than five days old from the Danish Securities Centre (Værdipapircentralen) or the institution holding the shares on deposit, as documentation for the shareholding, together with a declaration from the shareholder stating that shares have not been sold after issuance of the statement nor that it is the intention of the shareholder to do so before the Annual General Meeting.

The Agenda, the complete proposals and the Financial Statements, Auditors' Report, Annual Report as well as the Consolidated Financial Statements will be available for inspection by the shareholders at the Company's office as from Thursday, April 5, 1990. The documents are available from the Company or from Infopress Ltd., 2-3 Salisbury Court, Fleet Street, London EC4Y 8AA. However, the Agenda and the Annual Report will be sent to shareholders whose shares are registered under the holder's name in the Company's register of shareholders.

The dividend as approved at the Annual General Meeting will — after deduction of withholding tax — be sent to Novo-Nordisk A/S' shareholders directly via The Danish Securities Centre (Værdipapircentralen).

Bagsvaerd, April 1990

The Board of Directors

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MoD fraud squad launches inquiry at Astra Holdings

By Melinda Wittstock

FRAUD Squad detectives from the Ministry of Defence have launched an investigation into "various transactions" involving the former chief executive of Astra Holdings, the troubled pyrotechnics, munitions and fireworks maker which recently warned it would fall into "substantial losses" for the year to end-March.

Astra, which said it would fully co-operate with the MoD police inquiry, said most, but not all of the problems under investigation relate to employees based at the group office in Canterbury, which has since been closed with eight redundancies.

The MoD, which confirmed

it is specifically investigating alleged "contractual irregularities" and "possible corruption," said the inquiry follows questioning on March 13 of Mr Christopher Gumbley, former chief executive of Astra, and Mr Denis Stowe, a middle-ranking civil servant at the MoD's Directorate of Light Weapons.

Both were released on bail without charge, and Mr Gumbley, of Sandwich, Kent, resigned from Astra two days later without compensation. Mr Stowe was suspended from his MoD duties.

Mr Gerald James, the former chairman, and Mr John Anderson, an executive director, both agreed to resign at

the same time, but changed their minds when Astra's new management vetoed compensation payments to both directors of £300,000 and £200,000 respectively.

Institutional investors, who have seen Astra's shares fall from 180p to 17p, down 3p yesterday, have requisitioned an extraordinary meeting on April 25 to oust Mr James and Mr Anderson.

Mr Roy Barber, the new chairman, said he could shed no further light at present on the MoD investigation.

"Astra is determined that such investigations shall be speedily conducted and that all implications of any impropriety by the company or

any of its employees or directors be thoroughly investigated," he said.

He added that he did not believe the inquiry would threaten Astra's ability to win MoD contracts, which were a "very important" contributor to sales and profits.

"All the damage that could have been done to Astra has already been done," he added.

The company, which also announced 250 redundancies at its plant in Grantham, Lincolnshire in a move which will save it £5 million in costs on an annualised basis, said it had also hired Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte, the accountants, to investigate "the conduct of certain directors prior

to March, 1990." Mr Barber said the MoD inquiry is not linked to the problems at PRB, the Belgian munitions maker acquired for £21.5 million from Société Générale de Belgique last September.

Astra, which shocked the City with interim losses of £3.43 million last December as a result of delayed MoD contracts, is seeking financial compensation from La Générale. Astra said the financial position of PRB is "materially worse" than represented to the previous Astra management before they acquired the company, with PRB reporting a loss of £12 million instead of forecast profits of £2 million.

COMMENT

Open season on the closed door contract

It is surely time that the matter of directors' contracts emerged from behind closed board committee doors and into the open. As a wise man once said: "there is no better antiseptic than daylight."

So far the British have treated matters of personal remuneration with a traditional respect for privacy. Only the chairman of a public company suffers the indignity of having his pay revealed directly in company reports to shareholders. Other directors' salaries are customarily listed in bands and who slots into which is shrouded in mystery.

Shareholders are far more in the dark over the broader details of directors' contracts. And lately, when such fine print emerges, as often as not it is met with raised eyebrows or outright disapproval. By then of course it is too late.

Most fixing of contracts is normally delegated to a committee of the board in question. Best practice is that all of the executive directors negotiate with non-executives who have, at least in theory, no axes to grind and hopefully the breadth of experience to judge what is appropriate. Such material contracts may be available to shareholders at certain times of the year, but largely they pass un-noticed.

Under some circumstances there is a conflict between the right of individuals to confidentiality over their pay and conditions and the legitimate interests of shareholders. Would, for example, the shareholders of Ward White have approved if they had been told in advance that their chairman might be liable for a compensation package of £13 million in a takeover or loss of office? How might the shareholders of Camford Engineering have reacted if they had been asked in advance to sanction

directors' contracts allowing them to walk away with five years' salary merely if an outside shareholder raised his stake to 30 per cent? Were Ferranti shareholders happy that their chairman, who presided over the most disastrous period in the company's history, was finally speeded on his way with a compensation package worth £490,000?

If attitudes are hardening to such lavishness — some would say laxity — it augurs badly for Mr Philip Birch, former chairman of Ward White, acquired by Boots for £900 million last summer. His agreement was a complex affair which required compensation to be calculated by reference to a five-year forecast of profits and returns on capital employed. To a plain man, arriving at a settlement would require the services of a soothsayer as much as any lawyer. If all the targets laid down in the contract were met, in theory Mr Birch would be entitled to £13 million, as much as the company paid in total dividends to all its shareholders in 1987. Additionally, Mr Birch has already commuted part of his pension into a £960,000 lump sum and is due an annual payment of £350,000. Boots says it has its own shareholders to consider and is digging in its heels.

There is a case for considering more transparency in the fixing of such contracts where the potential liability to the company is so large. Board committees dealing with remuneration and contracts could, without stifling ambition and enterprise, be required to consist of independent non-executives. And the results of their deliberations should be there for all to see in company annual reports. On the last point, there seems no reasonable grounds for delay.

Marshall draws up airline battle plan

By Harvey Elliott
Air Correspondent

SIR Colin Marshall, chief executive of British Airways, yesterday spelled out his "battle plan" for defeating attempts to brand the planned creation of a European airline as uncompetitive.

He told Sabena, of Belgium, and KLM, of the Netherlands, the other partners in the Brussels airport-based airline, that he planned a submission to show the Monopolies and Mergers Commission that competition would be enhanced, rather than reduced. He confidently predicted that the deal would be allowed to proceed unchanged.

At a meeting in Brussels, Sabena and KLM gave warning that if BA was forced to pull out of the deal by the MMC, or walked away from it because it was unhappy about any conditions, foreign carriers would be quick to pick up its stakes — and this could provide the US with a cheap foothold in Europe.

The MMC was called in after complaints from airlines such as British Midland that the creation of Sabena World Airways, running "hub and spoke" operations from Brussels, would severely damage competition from Heathrow and other British airports.

Although it is thought unlikely that the MMC will outlaw the proposed deal — under which BA has paid £34 million for its 20 per cent share — it will be strongly urged to order BA to give up its own services to Brussels and hand them over to a rival.

Meanwhile, the deal faces challenges from the European Commission — which is also investigating whether the proposal is uncompetitive — and small Belgian charter airlines. Scandinavian Airlines System (SAS) which owns 25 per cent of Airlines of Britain, the parent of British Midland, said it expected a higher 1990 operating profit, after operating profit before deductions fell to SKr2.66 billion (£266.5 million) in 1989, from SKr2.73 billion. SAS announced a fall in profit before extraordinary items to SKr 2.21 billion (SKr 3.71 billion).

Disposal lifts Meggitt



Sculpting profits: Ken Coates, left, and finance director Nigel McCorkell yesterday

A GAIN of £2.2 million on the disposal of a freehold property helped Meggitt's profits to rise 23 per cent to £26 million in the year to December on sales 29 per cent up at £252 million

(Jermain Andrews writes). Mr Ken Coates, managing director, said the £1.8 million costs of the aborted £120 million bid for United Scientific Holdings were offset by gains

on the disposals of businesses to give a £409,000 credit. A 2.2p final (up 0.35p) makes a 3.3p total (up a fifth).

Times, page 26

Priest's accounts qualified

By Neil Bennett

AUDITORS at Priest Mariani, the troubled property group, yesterday said that it has breached loan agreements, and the company announced that it was talking with bankers about restructuring debts.

The warning came as Priest revealed pre-tax profits for the year to September down 80 per cent at £1.81 million.

It is being forced to cancel its dividend, 3.3p in 1988, due to a £31.6 million write-off against its disastrous takeover of the Local London Group in February last year.

Touche Ross, the auditor, has qualified Priest's accounts with the warning that it is "technically in breach of certain covenants in the loan agreements". It says the accounts are valid only if banks, led by Samuel Montagu, do not exercise their rights and property sales go as planned.

Mr Michael Gaskell Syms, managing director, said that the breaches had occurred when Priest's net worth and interest income had fallen below minimum levels.

Priest has £225 million of debt. Its shares, unchanged at 273p, are supported by the presence of two big shareholders, JMB Realty, with 28.3 per cent, and GroveWood Securities with 19.6 per cent.

Early's of Witney, the Oxfordshire textile manufacturer, has recommended the £13.2 million bid from GroveWood Securities to shareholders.

Revamp costs hit Brammer

By Our City Staff

BRAMMER's pre-tax profits fell £350,000 to £13 million, after the company incurred the cost of revamping its hearing and transmission belt distribution outlets while margins were under pressure.

Sales, however, were 8 per cent up at £121 million in the year to December.

Because of the difficulty of attracting young staff, the company decided that its branches needed a new image. The £994,000 costs of the revamp were treated as an

exceptional item. Pre-tax profits from this business were, in any event, 2 per cent down at £10.6 million, because manufacturers had been cutting prices of replacement bearings to bring them in line with the rest of Europe.

Profits from Brammer's other main activity — renting scientific instruments and industrial test equipment — rose 17 per cent to £2.84 million. There was a £400,000 turnaround from discontinued businesses after the August sale of

Pope Machinery, its last manufacturing operation, for £2.48 million. However, this disposal was at less than book value and gave rise to an extraordinary charge of £1 million.

Earnings per share fell 4 per cent to 19.7p and the maintained 8.5p final leaves the total dividend unchanged at 13p, for a yield of 9.3 per cent with the shares at 186p.

Mr Jon Foulds, chairman, said difficult trading conditions had continued to tighten in the early part of this year.

Pressure mounts on Carter

MR DON CARTER, disgraced former head of the Carter Organisation and, at least in part, the role model for Wall Street's Gordon Gekko, faces the worst four weeks of his life so far as he awaits sentencing on May 2. But as yet unexplained on this side of the Atlantic is why Mr Carter found himself facing criminal action by the avowedly-titled New York State Organised Crime Task Force, rather than the rather gentler federal authorities. The organized crime tics, it turns out, were after a former employee of Mr Carter on suspected drug trafficking charges who then pointed the finger at Mr Carter, now pleading guilty to charges of stealing from clients, tax evasion and falsifying tax returns. The distinction is not a minor one for Mr Carter, the one-time Wall Street "king of the proxy battles." He can look forward to two weeks on New York's notorious Rikers Island prison followed by an undetermined spell in a tough state penitentiary, as against the rather laxer regime enjoyed by other Wall Street fallen stars in federal prisons. "He won't be polishing up his golf handicap, and he won't be rubbing shoulders with Ivan Boesky," said one insider at Vallin Pollen, the public relations business which bought the Carter Organisation before the 1987 crash. In addition, he faces mounting pressure ahead of sentencing to reach a settlement with VPI Group,

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

A stroke of luck

WATCH out. Ladbroke's, Danny Desmond is heading your way again. Mr Desmond, chairman of property group Bride Hall, has not endeared himself to the bookies since signing Britain's top golfer, Nick Faldo, in May 1987. Bride Hall, under the terms of the deal, pays Mr Faldo bonuses to match his prize money every time he wins a big

tournament and has successfully hedged the arrangement by placing bets with bookmakers that he will win. So successful was the golfer last year that the agreement did not cost Mr Desmond's company a penny. Its winnings having outbalanced the losses. Mr Faldo has signed a new three-year sponsorship agreement with Bride Hall.

which paid him \$75 million cash and \$14 million a year for the organization which brought it so much grief and which would like as much of the money as possible returned.

● BEST wishes from this column to the Barclays Bank chairman Sir John Quinlan,



who is recovering from heart bypass surgery carried out at the Wellington Hospital in London last week. The operation went according to plan, says the bank, and Sir John's duties while he is away are in the hands of his deputies, Sir Martin Jacobson and Peter Lealle.

Soled

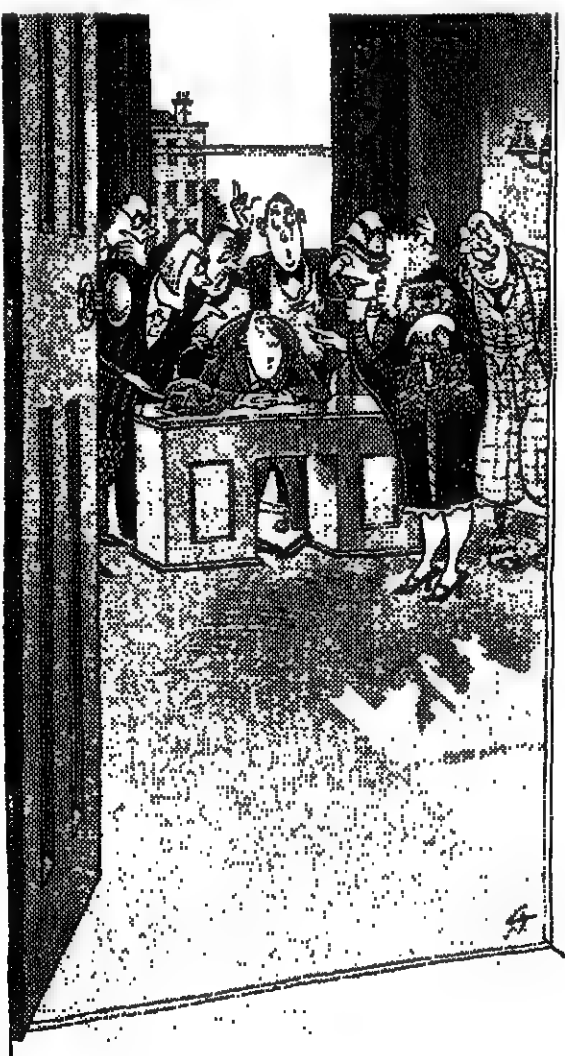
On Tuesdays and Thursdays a small pile of used shoes collects at the Olympus sports shop at Heathrow, sometimes almost as many as the staff manage to sell that day, says Sears chairman Geoffrey Maitland Smith. Those two days there is a particularly popular flight to Tokyo via Amsterdam, and Japanese travellers stocking up on a last pair of Reeboks before returning home are in the habit of simply leaving their old shoes in the shop and walking out in their new purchases.

Working it out

WE HAVE all heard that the Japanese are a nation of workaholics. Now it seems their own government is taking the matter seriously and is carrying out a \$2 million study into "karoshi." To the millions of middle managers who operate in perpetual overdrive, this is the phenomenon known as death from overwork. The government has been thrown on the defensive by a barrage of law suits and has begun the study to determine whether the stereotype of Japanese business life adds up to too much work being fatal. Officially it refuses to use the term. The Labour Ministry says simply that it is starting a project entitled "comprehensive measures for job-related illnesses". But a shortage of skilled labour and a corporate push to raise productivity has stretched workers in many industries to the limit. Establishing a direct medical and legal link between the pressure cooker existence of mid-level executives and fatal heart attacks or strokes is nearly impossible. Says lawyer Chikano Okamura, who is leading the campaign for government action: "The government doesn't want to pay claims; the companies don't want to admit they are killing people."

● Surely the ultimate insult to Lada owners: "For sale, Lada 1200 Estate, yellow, X-reg, 1982, £400 ono." From the Yorkshire Post — in the cooking and heating section, among the Agas and Zanussis.

Martin Waller



Ever wish you could make the family business less of a family affair?

It's a problem that's all too common. You've taken charge of the family business, and now the family's trying to take charge of you. Naturally, everyone wants their say. But here's a simple, if rather brutal, fact: fewer than a third of family-run businesses survive to the second generation.

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Portfolio

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From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches, you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

| No. | Company | Group | Gain or Loss |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| 1 | BAT (a) | Tobacco | |
| 2 | Gr Portland | Property | |
| 3 | Hidson | Chemicals, Plastics | |
| 4 | Watts Hale | Building Roads | |
| 5 | Chantry | Banking, Discount | |
| 6 | Provident | Banking, Discount | |
| 7 | Redwood | Industrials A-D | |
| 8 | Shell (a) | Oil, Gas | |
| 9 | Norfolk | Industrials L-R | |
| 10 | Midland (a) | Banking, Discount | |
| 11 | Blue Circle (a) | Building Roads | |
| 12 | Kilwarden | Banking, Discount | |
| 13 | Empire Stores | Drapery, Stores | |
| 14 | BPP | Newspapers, Pub | |
| 15 | Exp Camp Lonsdale | Oil, Gas | |
| 16 | Lee Refrigeration | Electricals | |
| 17 | Assoc Br Ports | Transport | |
| 18 | Lambada (a) | Industrials E-K | |
| 19 | Camel (a) | Motor, Aircraft | |
| 20 | Indecon | Property | |
| 21 | Scott & New (a) | Newspapers, Pub | |
| 22 | Southend Prop | Property | |
| 23 | Br Vita | Industrials A-D | |
| 24 | Br Airways (a) | Transport | |
| 25 | Fisons (a) | Industrials E-K | |
| 26 | Dorcas | Industrials A-D | |
| 27 | Guinness (a) | Breweries | |
| 28 | Scott TV | Leisure | |
| 29 | Ryl Bk Scot (a) | Banking, Discount | |
| 30 | Sebe (a) | Industrials S-Z | |
| 31 | Reyon | Industrials L-R | |
| 32 | Citygrove | Property | |
| 33 | Low & Bonar | Industrials L-R | |
| 34 | Body Shop | Drapery, Stores | |
| 35 | Am West (a) | Banking, Discount | |
| 36 | Embury | Industrials E-K | |
| 37 | Vickers | Industrials S-Z | |
| 38 | Uthmaniyah (a) | Oil, Gas | |
| 39 | Redland (a) | Building Roads | |
| 40 | Rockware | Industrials L-R | |
| 41 | Stand Chart (a) | Banking, Discount | |
| 42 | Young 'A' | Breweries | |
| 43 | Barbour India | Newspapers, Pub | |
| 44 | LWT CP | Leisure | |
| © Times Newspapers Ltd. Daily Total | | | |

Please take into account any minus signs.

| Weekly Dividend | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper. | | | | | | |
| MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT | TOTAL |
| | | | | | | |

There were no valid claims for yesterday's £4,000 Portfolio Platinum competition. The money will be added to today's bond.

| BRITISH FUNDS | | |
|---------------|------|-----|
| 1990 | High | Low |
| 1990 | High | Low |

| SHORTS (Under Five Years) | | |
|---------------------------|------|-----|
| 1990 | High | Low |
| 1990 | High | Low |

| FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS | | |
|-----------------------|------|-----|
| 1990 | High | Low |
| 1990 | High | Low |

| OVER FIFTEEN YEARS | | |
|--------------------|------|-----|
| 1990 | High | Low |
| 1990 | High | Low |

| UNDATED | | |
|---------|------|-----|
| 1990 | High | Low |
| 1990 | High | Low |

| INDEX-LINKED | | |
|--------------|------|-----|
| 1990 | High | Low |
| 1990 | High | Low |

| BANKS, DISCOUNT HP | | |
|--------------------|------|-----|
| 1990 | High | Low |
| 1990 | High | Low |

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Useful gains

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began March 26. Dealings end Friday. Contango day, Monday. Settlement day, April 17.

Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (aa) denotes Alpha Stocks.

(VOLUMES PAGE 25)

| 1990 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change | Yield | P/E |
|------|------|-----|---------|-------|--------|-------|-----|
| 1990 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change | Yield | P/E |

| BREWERIES | | | | | | | |
|-----------|------|-----|---------|-------|--------|-------|-----|
| 1990 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change | Yield | P/E |

| BUILDING, ROADS | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|------|-----|---------|-------|--------|-------|-----|
| 1990 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change | Yield | P/E |

| FINANCE, LAND | | | | | | | |
|---------------|------|-----|---------|-------|--------|-------|-----|
| 1990 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change | Yield | P/E |

| FINANCIAL TRUSTS | | | | | | | |
|------------------|------|-----|---------|-------|--------|-------|-----|
| 1990 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change | Yield | P/E |

| FOODS | | | | | | | |
|-------|------|-----|---------|-------|--------|-------|-----|
| 1990 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change | Yield | P/E |

| L-R | | | | | | | |
|------|------|-----|---------|-------|--------|-------|-----|
| 1990 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change | Yield | P/E |

| CHEMICALS, PLASTICS | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|------|-----|---------|-------|--------|-------|-----|
| 1990 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change | Yield | P/E |

| HOTELS, CATERERS | | | | | | | |
|------------------|------|-----|---------|-------|--------|-------|-----|
| 1990 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change | Yield | P/E |

| INDUSTRIALS A-D | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|------|-----|---------|-------|--------|-------|-----|
| 1990 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change | Yield | P/E |

| 1990 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change | Yield | P/E |
|------|------|-----|---------|-------|--------|-------|-----|
| 1990 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change | Yield | P/E |

| E-K | | | | | | | |
|------|------|-----|---------|-------|--------|-------|-----|
| 1990 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change | Yield | P/E |

| S-Z | | | | | | | |
|------|------|-----|---------|-------|--------|-------|-----|
| 1990 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change | Yield | P/E |

| OVERSEAS TRADERS | | | | | | | |
|------------------|------|-----|---------|-------|--------|-------|-----|
| 1990 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change | Yield | P/E |

| PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|------|-----|---------|-------|--------|-------|-----|
| 1990 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change | Yield | P/E |

| INSURANCE | | | | | | | |
|-----------|------|-----|---------|-------|--------|-------|-----|
| 1990 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change | Yield | P/E |

| LEISURE | | | | | | | |
|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|--------|-------|-----|
| 1990 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change | Yield | P/E |

| MINING | | | | | | | |
|--------|------|-----|---------|-------|--------|-------|-----|
| 1990 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change | Yield | P/E |

| PROPERTY | | | | | | | |
|----------|------|-----|---------|-------|--------|-------|-----|
| 1990 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change | Yield | P/E |

| SHOES, LEATHER | | | | | | | |
|----------------|------|-----|---------|-------|--------|-------|-----|
| 1990 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change | Yield | P/E |

| 1990 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change | Yield | P/E |
|------|------|-----|---------|-------|--------|-------|-----|
| 1990 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change | Yield | P/E |

| TEXTILES | | | | | | | |
|----------|------|-----|---------|-------|--------|-------|-----|
| 1990 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change | Yield | P/E |

| MOTORS, AIRCRAFT | | | | | | | |
|------------------|------|-----|---------|-------|--------|-------|-----|
| 1990 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change | Yield | P/E |

| NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|------|-----|---------|-------|--------|-------|-----|
| 1990 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change | Yield | P/E |

| OILS, GAS | | | | | | | |
|-----------|------|-----|---------|-------|--------|-------|-----|
| 1990 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change | Yield | P/E |

| TOBACCO | | | | | | | |
|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|--------|-------|-----|
| 1990 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change | Yield | P/E |

| TRANSPORT | | | | | | | |
|-----------|------|-----|---------|-------|--------|-------|-----|
| 1990 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change | Yield | P/E |

| WATER | | | | | | | |
|-------|------|-----|---------|-------|--------|-------|-----|
| 1990 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change | Yield | P/E |

| ELECTRICALS | | | | | | | |
|-------------|------|-----|---------|-------|--------|-------|-----|
| 1990 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change | Yield | P/E |

| DRAPERY, STORES | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|------|-----|---------|-------|--------|-------|-----|
| 1990 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change | Yield | P/E |

| 1990 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change | Yield | P/E |
|------|------|-----|---------|-------|--------|-------|-----|
| 1990 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change | Yield | P/E |

| OVERSEAS TRADERS | | | | | | | |
|------------------|------|-----|---------|-------|--------|-------|-----|
| 1990 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change | Yield | P/E |

| PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|------|-----|---------|-------|--------|-------|-----|
| 1990 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change | Yield | P/E |

| INSURANCE | | | | | | | |
|-----------|------|-----|---------|-------|--------|-------|-----|
| 1990 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change | Yield | P/E |

| LEISURE | | | | | | | |
|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|--------|-------|-----|
| 1990 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change | Yield | P/E |

| MINING | | | | | | | |
|--------|------|-----|---------|-------|--------|-------|-----|
| 1990 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change | Yield | P/E |

| PROPERTY | | | | | | | |
|----------|------|-----|---------|-------|--------|-------|-----|
| 1990 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change | Yield | P/E |

| SHOES, LEATHER | | | | | | | |
|----------------|------|-----|---------|-------|--------|-------|-----|
| 1990 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change | Yield | P/E |

| TEXTILES | | | | | | | |
|----------|------|-----|---------|-------|--------|-------|-----|
| 1990 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change | Yield | P/E |

| MOTORS, AIRCRAFT | | | | | | | |
|------------------|------|-----|---------|-------|--------|-------|-----|
| 1990 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change | Yield | P/E |

| 1990 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change | Yield | P/E |
|------|------|-----|---------|-------|--------|-------|-----|
| 1990 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change | Yield | P/E |

| OVERSEAS TRADERS | | | | | | | |
|------------------|------|-----|---------|-------|--------|-------|-----|
| 1990 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change | Yield | P/E |

| PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|------|-----|---------|-------|--------|-------|-----|
| 1990 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change | Yield | P/E |

| INSURANCE | | | | | | | |
|-----------|------|-----|---------|-------|--------|-------|-----|
| 1990 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change | Yield | P/E |

| LEISURE | | | | | | | |
|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|--------|-------|-----|
| 1990 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change | Yield | P/E |

| MINING | | | | | | | |
|--------|------|-----|---------|-------|--------|-------|-----|
| 1990 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change | Yield | P/E |

| PROPERTY | | | | | | | |
|----------|------|-----|---------|-------|--------|-------|-----|
| 1990 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change | Yield | P/E |

| SHOES, LEATHER | | | | | | | |
|----------------|------|-----|---------|-------|--------|-------|-----|
| 1990 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change | Yield | P/E |

| TEXTILES | | | | | | | |
|----------|------|-----|---------|-------|--------|-------|-----|
| 1990 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change | Yield | P/E |

| MOTORS, AIRCRAFT | | | | | | | |
|------------------|------|-----|---------|-------|--------|-------|-----|
| 1990 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change | Yield | P/E |

Ex dividend a Ex all b Forecast dividend c Interim payment passed d Price at suspension e Dividend and yield exclude a special payment f Pre-merger figures g Forecast earnings p Other r Ex rights s Ex scrip or share split t Tax-free No significant data.

Export lift needed to improve growth in Latin America

From Susan Elliott, Montreal

LATIN America will continue to suffer poor economic growth in the 1990s unless the region boosts exports and improves its competitiveness, the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) claims.

The bank, one of a growing number of regional, government-run lending organizations that aim to promote multi-lateral trade, called for measures to help the region service its large foreign debt, and for the successful conclusion of international trade talks in the Uruguay round.

In a gloomy annual report about Latin American economic performance, the IADB said many nations of Latin America and the Caribbean were plagued last year by high inflation and international interest rates.

The report was released at the annual meeting of the bank's board of governors in Montreal.

It described Latin America's overall growth rate in 1989 - a flat 0.7 per cent - as "disappointing", but praised a number of countries, especially Chile and Paraguay,

for achieving high growth.

They achieved growth of 9 per cent and 6 per cent respectively through export expansion, fixed investments, and improved farming. The economic output of Costa Rica, Mexico, Guatemala, Suriname, Colombia, Barbados, and Brazil each grew between 3 and 4 per cent.

"While success in improving export performance will depend considerably on internal policies, a favourable external environment will also be essential," for the region to achieve sustained economic growth in the coming decade, the report said.

"Without sustained expansion in investment, output, and employment, the deterioration in living conditions suffered by large segments of the region's population during the 1980s would continue in the decade ahead."

The most severe economic slowdowns were suffered by Peru, Venezuela, Argentina, Panama, and Nicaragua. Peru experienced a growth rate of minus 14 per cent.

Last year, the IADB approved

ed loans worth \$2.6 billion and borrowed \$2 billion in international capital markets for projects designed to improve economic growth and social conditions in Latin America.

During the 1980s, the standard of living for many developing countries in Latin America fell, as regional populations grew faster than their economies.

The export markets of many were helped last year by continued economic growth and import demand among leading industrialized nations. Interest rates, however, reached a five-year high despite a slow down in the GDP in developed countries.

Higher exports permitted developing countries to finance the higher interest but Latin America and Africa experienced below-average export growth.

The developing countries of Asia, by contrast, saw above-average growth in exports last year.

Property company's £40m buy in Spain

From Matthew Boulton, Barcelona

HAMMERSON, the property company, has made its first purchase in Spain by buying a 100,000 sq ft office building from a subsidiary of Banco Exterior for £40 million.

The building, on the Paseo de Gracia in Barcelona, in the



Mason: Spanish deal heart of the commercial sector of Spain's second-largest city, is 30 per cent occupied.

The company, whose chairman is Mr Sydney Mason, plans a rolling refurbishment of its interior to provide 80,000 sq ft of offices and 24,000 sq ft of retail space.

The company has also bought, in Essen, West Germany, a 290,000 sq ft shopping centre, City Centre Essen. After refurbishment, it should be worth about £70 million.

Hacker danger in computer share registration

From H. D. Berman

Sir, The Stock Exchange Council wish to abolish share certificates and put all registers of shareholders on to computers.

They have failed to realize that computer hackers are becoming more and more sophisticated.

If this plan is implemented it will create a paradise for criminals. Should a hacker

transfer shares to himself or his nominee, the legitimate owner would know nothing until the next dividend failed to arrive.

It would be almost impossible accurately to reconstruct the register because, although the bought contract note proved that, at one time, the buyer owned the shares, it would be difficult to prove that he had not subsequently

sold them, possibly through another broker. It is imperative that this half-baked scheme should be scotched.

I am, Sir, Yours faithfully, H. D. BERMAN, Flat 2, Sunridge, 14 Dittons Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex, March 26.

Cash accounting

From Mr L. J. Brooks

Sir, I am surprised to see the National Federation of Self Employed and Small Business suggest that all small businesses with a turnover below £250,000 use Cash Accounting for VAT Accounts.

The Cash Accounting system is optional for such small businesses and for some could prove to be distinctly disadvantageous - for example a business where all turnover is paid at the point of sale. Such businesses, including most if not all public houses and small retail shops, have no bad debt problem but can claim Input VAT that they have not yet paid thereby enhancing their cash flow.

Yours faithfully, L. J. BROOKS, Lawrence J Brooks Accountancy Services, 138 Notley Road, Braintree, Essex.

Matter of record

From P. J. D. Gehring

Sir, The mechanics of buying shares have always seemed very simple to me. Like Mr Davies (Business Letters, March 27), I do not understand the references by Mr Hugh Smith to a torrent of paperwork.

Just as a theatre ticket is a useful piece of paper for finding the right seat in the theatre and for settling and disputes, so a share certificate is a useful possession and cross-check on other records. This isn't just a sentimental attachment to the old way of doing things: I believe the alternative Taurus system will prove to be less convenient to the private investor, very expensive for those of us who hold shares in several companies and a major disincentive to wider share ownership.

It would surely be possible to automate many of the

routine clerical functions in the back offices of the City, but still print out a form of certificates as the final stage. Yours faithfully, P. J. D. GETTING, 26 Dukes Mead, Fleet, Hants.

Tessa's effect

From Mr Oliver Chapple

Sir, One important aspect of the Budget, which no one seems to have noticed, is that "Tessa" will provide building societies with long-term deposits that can be used to fund fixed-rate mortgages.

This in turn will permit the application of a firm monetary policy with less direct effects, through mortgage-rate changes, on retail price inflation.

OLIVER CHAPPLE, Oxenfold Hall Farm, Osbaldeston, Blackburn, Lancs.

Wedgwood stuffiness

From S. A. Grover

Sir, John Hart's letter in the Business Letters section (March 21) on Wedgwood's stuffiness was apposite. It was such a pity Wedgwood sought a "white knight" in Waterford merely to escape the clutches of a hostile bid by London International.

For my money I was quite willing to be linked (among other products) to a condom-maker (L&K).

Incidentally, they have disposed of their interest in a china/pottery manufacturing, albeit not of the same class as Wedgwood.

No doubt Wedgwood felt all this would be going down market, but they could have joined an extremely enterprising group which is well financed.

As a result, we shareholders are suffering from what can only be described as Wedgwood's stuffiness against London International.

Yours faithfully, S. A. GROVER, 44 Monmouth Road, New Elham, London SE9, March 22.

Letters to The Times Business and Finance section can be sent by fax on (01) 782 5112.

WORLD MARKET INDICES

| Index | Value | Daily change (%) | Yearly change (%) | Daily change (p) | Yearly change (p) |
|-------------|--------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| The World | 700.4 | 1.5 | -17.0 | 1.7 | -12.9 |
| (free) | 133.7 | 1.5 | -17.1 | 1.7 | -13.0 |
| EAPE | 1201.1 | 2.3 | -22.9 | 2.2 | -17.8 |
| (free) | 123.2 | 2.4 | -23.2 | 2.1 | -18.1 |
| Europe | 738.5 | 0.8 | -3.6 | 0.9 | -3.3 |
| (free) | 158.1 | 0.8 | -3.3 | 0.7 | -3.2 |
| Nth America | 510.6 | 0.1 | -5.1 | 0.4 | -3.9 |
| Nordic | 1500.5 | 0.5 | -5.6 | 0.7 | -3.3 |
| (free) | 236.1 | 0.5 | 1.2 | 0.7 | 1.5 |
| Pacific | 2826.9 | 3.6 | -33.3 | 3.2 | -28.6 |
| Far East | 3787.9 | 3.8 | -34.5 | 3.4 | -27.3 |
| Australia | 303.1 | 0.4 | -12.7 | 0.1 | -8.5 |
| Austria | 2180.3 | -1.8 | 45.4 | -1.6 | 47.9 |
| Belgium | 909.7 | -0.3 | -7.8 | -0.1 | -7.5 |
| Canada | 839.4 | 0.0 | -10.2 | 0.2 | -8.4 |
| Denmark | 1391.5 | -0.2 | 5.7 | 0.0 | 5.8 |
| Finland | 107.1 | -0.4 | -7.1 | -0.3 | -6.8 |
| (free) | 144.4 | -0.7 | -5.1 | -0.6 | -4.7 |
| France | 701.1 | 1.5 | -6.1 | 1.5 | -5.9 |
| Germany | 1000.2 | 1.6 | 8.0 | 1.6 | 10.9 |
| Hong Kong | 2302.7 | 1.1 | 3.8 | 1.4 | 5.0 |
| Italy | 373.5 | -0.3 | -8.1 | -0.1 | -3.3 |
| Japan | 3564.8 | 4.0 | -35.7 | 3.5 | -28.3 |
| Netherlands | 902.2 | 1.3 | -4.6 | 1.5 | -3.1 |
| New Zealand | 85.7 | 0.7 | -16.8 | 0.9 | -13.5 |
| Norway | 1588.1 | 1.9 | 18.8 | 1.9 | 17.9 |
| (free) | 275.5 | 1.9 | 17.9 | 1.9 | 17.2 |
| Sing/Malay | 1688.4 | -0.2 | -1.3 | 0.0 | -1.0 |
| Spain | 188.5 | -0.1 | -20.4 | -0.1 | -20.0 |
| Sweden | 1563.3 | 0.8 | -10.2 | 0.8 | -10.6 |
| (free) | 218.9 | 0.8 | -8.7 | 0.8 | -8.5 |
| Switzerland | 682.8 | 0.8 | -4.0 | 0.8 | -3.7 |
| (free) | 131.1 | 0.9 | -3.1 | 1.0 | -2.4 |
| UK | 683.3 | 0.5 | -8.0 | 0.5 | -7.0 |
| USA | 480.7 | 0.2 | -4.7 | 0.4 | -3.5 |

(*) Local currency. Source: Morgan Stanley Capital International.

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

| Index | Value | Daily change (%) | Yearly change (%) | Daily change (p) | Yearly change (p) |
|-------|--------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| AAA | 300.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| AA | 300.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| A | 300.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| B | 300.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| C | 300.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| D | 300.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| E | 300.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| F | 300.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| G | 300.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| H | 300.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| I | 300.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| J | 300.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| K | 300.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| L | 300.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| M | 300.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| N | 300.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| O | 300.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| P | 300.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Q | 300.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| R | 300.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| S | 300.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| T | 300.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| U | 300.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| V | 300.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| W | 300.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| X | 300.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Y | 300.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Z | 300.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

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HIGHLIGHTS OF 1990 INTERIM RESULTS

| | 1990 | 1989 | |
|---------------------|---------|---------|--------|
| SALES | £1,181m | £1,032m | UP 14% |
| OPERATING PROFIT | £89.0m | £76.9m | UP 16% |
| PROFIT BEFORE TAX | £80.1m | £72.4m | UP 11% |
| EARNINGS PER SHARE | 33.5p | 30.1p | UP 11% |
| DIVIDENDS PER SHARE | 8.4p | 7.0p | UP 20% |

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MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS

Blame a message, not the medium

Whenever modern politicians feel their backs to the wall, they look first to image improvement. If the message is not getting across, then they tinker with it, if necessary abusing the messenger en route. These days the messengers first in the firing line will be those of television, to which medium great and hidden persuasive power is ascribed.

The evidence suggests that this presumed power of television is significantly overstated. A survey of British general elections of the television age would indicate that to the campaign victor do not go the spoils. Labour fought a "better campaign" than did the Tories in 1987; it did much the same in 1992. On both occasions Labour went down to a telling defeat. The Conservatives were thought to be wooden under Ted Heath in 1970, contrived and manipulated under Margaret Thatcher in 1979. No matter; they won decently both times. Perhaps the best cautionary tale comes from 1964. Then, Sir Alec Douglas-Home, the Conservatives' least effective television leader, batting on a very sticky post-Macmillan wicket, very nearly held off Harold Wilson, the candidate reckoned in his day to be the most media-savvy of all.

The somewhat alarming idea that all could be won or lost on television almost certainly gets its force from the Kennedy-Nixon contest of 1960. Yet we should not overlook the uncomfortable fact that but for the crook counting in Cook County Kennedy would have lost to Nixon. Nor should we forget that Britain's operational television rules were sharply at variance with American practice, and still are.

Sheltered from overt propaganda though it may be, British television still reflects long-term shifts in public affections, by and large cautiously. Hugh Carlton-Creene had a view that broadcasters might sensibly be a little ahead of public mood, giving a lead, but his successors fight shy of such a stance. Michael Checkland latterly confessed to an impression that the BBC of the early 1980s had been slow to spot a new enthusiasm for Thatcherite market economics. How swift would today's BBC be to register a tide flowing strongly the other way?

The probability is that once again the BBC will seem to be slow on the turn. Broadcasters, unlike print journalists, are to some extent prisoners of their cherished impartiality, usually taking

note of a shift of mood only when all indicators point the same way. Yet, under our modern media arrangements, Government presides over most of what is manageable in the flow of information and event. Broadcasters cannot turn aside from this daily manifestation of elected influence, even though the reins of power may be perceptibly slipping from the incumbent's hands.

This is why the earliest broadcasting hint of changed public mood is often to be found outside the broad reportorial stream. Satirists, from Peter Cook in the days of Macmillan to Ben Elton in the present day, come forth as affectionate pillbearers to a fading regime. The satire is both recognizable and funny because the public is already more than half-persuaded; corroborative evidence comes from audience reaction in those programmes that are audience-dependent. Any regular attendee to Radio 4's *Any Questions* or BBC 1's *Question Time* will have noted that automatic deference to the present Government stopped about a year back; since then the titter-factor has steadily increased. The editors, Carole Stone of *Any Questions* and Barbara Maxwell of *Question Time*, would rightly deny any change in their processes of audience selection. This remains as even-handed as can be achieved. What changes is not the process, but the mood of any audience fairly selected. In short, the public, rather than the broadcaster, sets the pace.

BROADCAST

Brian Wenham

So can such a tide, once turned, be easily beaten back? The question rightly worries the media-alert Tory. Will the sweep of history, such as Jim Callaghan reckoned put the Tories in in 1979, now put the Tories out, or can a new broom sweep away the accumulated dust of 11 years? Media-watchers might give a split-level answer. Because Margaret Thatcher has been so dominant for so long, a radical usurpation may initially be seen more as a change of governing party than as a change of mere leadership; and hence the fancy of capturing any changing tide from within, and prior to an election. And yet indications from the increasingly sceptical viewers and listeners we see and hear over the airwaves would suggest that policies, rather than packaging, provide the kernel of discontent. Here a timely turnaround will be more difficult, and there is little the messenger can do about it.

Would the aspiring Tory leader part with his publishing baby? Andrew Lycett reports

The publishing machine welded together in the Sixties by Michael Heseltine, then an aspiring Conservative politician, does not stand still. Yesterday the Haymarket Publishing Group announced the purchase of yet another title, *Auto Classic*, a newspaper with a fortnightly circulation of 20,000, to add to its world-wide catalogue of 56 periodicals and 28 annuals.

Auto Classic will be part of Haymarket's powerhouse — its car magazine division, based in Teddington, Middlesex, which accounts for 60 per cent of the group's £80 million turnover. Other titles at Teddington include *What Car?*, a monthly with an ABC return of 137,000, making it Haymarket's most successful title in circulation terms; *Classic & Sports*, a monthly with an ABC of 101,000; and *Autocar and Motor*, a weekly with an ABC of 97,000.

Two buildings in Lancaster Gate, west London, house more of Haymarket's titles. Its business and marketing publishing division includes *Campaign*, one of its most successful titles, now selling 22,000 copies a week to the advertising trade. Its medical publishing division specializes in doctors' magazines and directories.

The buildings are an important part of Haymarket's assets. Indeed, when Mr Heseltine, newly down from Oxford, started his publishing business in 1956 with Clive Labovitch, a friend from university, he concentrated on property development, while Mr Labovitch was responsible for the literary output, which then amounted to three directories of job opportunities for graduates, school leavers and qualified men.

Among the Haymarket portfolio of companies today is Theatrust Agricultural, which owns and manages a 147-acre farm close to Theatrust House, Mr Heseltine's £2 million estate at Banbury in Oxfordshire. According to Lindsay Masters, the Haymarket chairman, Mr Heseltine uses the farm and is responsible for any losses it makes.

Mr Masters was brought in to run the company's directories in 1958. Simon Tindall, now managing director, joined him the following year.

Haymarket had ambitions to become a general publishing company. In 1960, the

Haymarket to market?



Heseltine at home: Haymarket says there has been no conflict of interests, nor favours

quarterly *Man About Town* was acquired and revamped as *Town*, a stylish gentleman's magazine. The following year, the company bought *Topic*, another attempt to create that elusive publishing beast, the British news magazine. Both failed poorly, and folded.

Haymarket was forced to sell a 40 per cent interest to Hazel Watson and Viney, its printers. In 1965, Mr Labovitch decided to go his own way.

Over the next five years, under the triumvirate of Heseltine, Masters and Tindall, Haymarket acquired its present-day character as a profitable publisher of business, medical and consumer magazines.

In 1967, following the takeover of Hazel Watson and Viney by the British Printing Corporation, Haymarket acquired BPC's magazine titles,

which included *Autosport*. In 1969, the year of the launch of *Accountancy Age*, another Haymarket high-flyer, the company made its first "substantial profit" of £150,000, and has been in the black ever since.

In 1970, following Edward Heath's general election victory, Mr Heseltine, then aged 37 and the MP for Tavistock, was offered his first taste of junior ministerial office as Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Transport. He put his shares in Haymarket into trust, to comply with regulations which prevent ministers holding non-governmental business interests, and gave up his chairmanship of the company, which passed to Mr Masters. Mr Tindall became managing director.

The structure of the company was changed again the following year when BPC was

bought out. This meant 40 per cent of Haymarket was still owned by a consortium of merchant banks, led by Charterhouse. But in 1977 the banks were bought out. In 1980 the directors were forced to sell three of their most attractive properties, *Computing Age*, *Accountancy Age* and their directories, which by then had been bought back from Mr Labovitch.

Since then, Haymarket has ploughed a solitary but profitable path. Predators have appeared at the door, but Mr Masters has seen them off.

Haymarket has set up small subsidiaries in France, Italy, Spain and the United States, which publish titles based on, or closely related to, the company's British magazines.

Since resigning as Secretary of State for Defence over the Westland affair in 1986, Mr Heseltine has returned to

Haymarket as a consultant. Through his family trust he still owns 50 per cent of the company — a little more in some subsidiaries, Mr Masters says, a little less in others — but is not apparently involved in Haymarket's day-to-day running.

Haymarket's most interesting recent development has been the taking of a number of small stakes in commercial radio stations. It has 29 per cent of Southern Radio Holdings, which owns Ocean Sound in the Southampton area and Southern Sound in Brighton. Haymarket was also part of an unsuccessful consortium which bid for the old TVS contract at the last television franchising round. Asked whether the company might be interested in bidding in the upcoming round, Mr Masters says: "It has all got a bit more daunting now. I think radio and publishing are fairly similar in their skills. But in television we would not have a dominant voice. We haven't closed the door on it, however."

He refuses to spell out profits, though he says they have grown by an average 20 per cent a year throughout the 1980s. Mr Masters admits to a slight downturn in advertising revenues since the end of last year, however. Haymarket will therefore be running slightly below its projected budget of £87 million.

According to Mr Masters, one of Mr Heseltine's greatest contributions to the company "was to hold us together in the early days when there was little to hold together. But since he has become a politician he has kept his distance. There has never been any conflict of interests between our titles and his ministerial offices. We don't have any defence titles, and he has never been Minister of Health. He has never done any favours and I don't expect he ever will." Haymarket's failure to win the television franchise confirms this.

But the position might change if Mr Heseltine becomes leader of the Conservative Party and even Prime Minister. It has been suggested that Mr Heseltine might then feel it necessary to distance himself further from his Haymarket stake. Haymarket would then be an attractive takeover prospect for any publisher. But, as Mr Masters says: "Haymarket is definitely not for sale."

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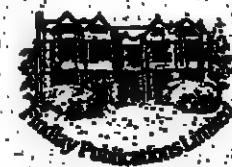
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Please apply in writing to: Mike Agate, Publishing Director, VNU Business Publications, VNU House, 32-34 Broadwick Street, London W1U 2AG.

Beware television's free-for-all

I don't mean to single out Mr Murdoch — who, after all, is only to be congratulated for his astonishing business acumen and shrewd leveraging of resources. I only wish to caution against promiscuous uses of the word "freedom". It is a word that second only to "patriotism",

American television today bears all the trappings of a Wild West shoot-'em-up. Beyond the freedom fantasy's frontier, gunslingers can, and do, flourish. It is a big, brawling place where newcomers with good ideas can break in. But it is also a place where enormous expense and energy are needed to eke out the most incremental gains, where a vast deal-making machinery and research/marketing/production apparatus complicates everyday

Painful as it has been to us at the networks, competition has not been without its benefits. It has opened up new points of access for fresh talent. It has provided a wider range of viewer choices. Advertisers also have more options, for which they are grateful, even if the networks remain the preferred media buy.

Yes, there are more choices. That is always cited as a self-evident virtue. But more choices may not necessarily mean better choices. Choice-proliferation has an effect that futurist Alvin Toffler once described as the Law of Raspberry Jam — the wider any culture is spread, the thinner it gets. Put another way, more may be less. It's what happened to pro sports in the United States when the number of

I didn't come to Britain as Paul Revere in turn-around to warn that the Americans are coming. The influx of competition, particularly foreign media, need not be seen as a threat. If you can keep to your own agenda, judicious partnerships and co-ventures can be a source of ideas and talents, and provide new export markets.

ers often prefer the lower end. The subject continues to cause controversy, despite the fact that television programmes and advertisements must conform to strict guidelines imposed by the Independent Television Association, the industry body.

Advertisers deny they are responsible for noisy commercials. Russell Jarmin-Price, "Advertisers want to make an impact so commercials get recorded in a specific way to make them sound brighter. We don't have problems with viewers' complaints over noise levels because we balance the sounds of all programmes and advertisements," a spokesman said.

Nicola Chapman

Nicola Chapman

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Continued on next page

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A Spanish speaker to assist an influential businessman with his many interests (esp. in S. America). Spend two days a week on his country estate, 3 in town giving superior personal assistance. Upmarket PAs with immaculate presentation should ring us right away on 434 0030. Salary and benefits negotiable. De Luxe.

SearchHedge Tel: 01-493 5787
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS
SearchHedge

TOP PA £15-£16,000

Demanding MD of this hugely successful career consultancy needs a sunny character to come in and be a real right arm to her. Lots of responsibility guaranteed for an 'A' level educated PA with Director level experience. Worth following up on 434 0030.

SearchHedge Tel: 01-493 5787
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS
SearchHedge

CREATIVE MEDIA & MARKETING APPOINTMENTS

Continued From Previous Page

ADVERTISING SALES

£25K - £55K PA

We are publishers of many of the world's leading titles for corporate decision makers including Business Strategy International and Global Investment Management.

The launch of a number of important new titles has created vacancies for high calibre Advertising Sales Executives.

We are looking for articulate and motivated young people who can deal effectively on the telephone with international clients and prospective advertisers.

As part of a major publishing group, our Sales Executives are accustomed to realising the highest earnings in media sales.

If you have good advertising sales experience or the relevant communication skills, then please telephone:

Chris Humphreys or Laurence Garman at Cornhill Publications on 01-240-1515.

AGENTS OF CHANGE

Redundancy can seriously damage your wealth

If you're fired make sure that your employer, not you, pays for the help you will need to find your next job - otherwise it could cost you £2000's. OUR BASIC COURSE IS DESIGNED TO HELP YOU IDENTIFY YOUR NEXT CAREER MOVE, INVOLVES 6 1/2 HOURS WORK & INCLUDES A PSYCHOMETRIC TEST.

IT COSTS £285 PLUS VAT

We also provide a wide range of courses planned to improve your prospects of achieving your personal and financial goals. Each session costs £125 + VAT. Our free brochure can help you negotiate for Outplacement Counselling should the need ever arise. For more information and brochures please call:

Agents of Change Ltd, 01-387 9291 (6 lines)
8-14 St. Pancras Way, London NW1 0QG

WARNER FABRICS

Designer needed for busy and expanding studio to work on repeats, and layouts of furnishing designs...salary to be determined by age and experience.

We are market leaders in furnishing fabrics and wallpapers with a large and varied range of styles. Several years experience would be preferable and an energetic and enthusiastic approach.

Please send your curriculum vitae to:

Anne White, Design Manager, Warner Fabrics PLC
7-11 Noel Street, London W1V 4AL
By Tuesday 10 April

INVEST IN YOUR FUTURE

£13,000 + M. SUB + PERKS

The answer to all your problems is here in the message into this... This is a very interesting and demanding role which requires a lot of tact and initiative. Working closely with an Executive Director, supporting him with his travel, arranging meetings and liaising with clients. A real challenge with superb rewards. Please call Julie - THIS COULD BE A TAP TO YOUR FUTURE ALSO.

Susan Beck
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

PA IN PRODUCTION

£11,000 + BENEFITS

Involve, variety and fun what more could you ask for? This is a fast-paced and exciting role in a leading publishing house. You will be responsible for the production of the company's main publication, working closely with the Production Director. You will be responsible for the production of the company's main publication, working closely with the Production Director. You will be responsible for the production of the company's main publication, working closely with the Production Director.

Susan Beck
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

OUT OF SECRETARIAL WITHIN 3 MONTHS

£14,000

If you feel that you have had enough of secretarial work and want to move to a more challenging role, this could be for you. This well-known property company is looking for a bright, energetic and motivated individual to join their team. You will be responsible for the production of the company's main publication, working closely with the Production Director.

Susan Beck
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

EXECUTIVE RECEPTION

£16,000 Package

This international group of lawyers is looking for a bright, energetic and motivated individual to join their team. You will be responsible for the production of the company's main publication, working closely with the Production Director. You will be responsible for the production of the company's main publication, working closely with the Production Director.

Susan Beck
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECEPTIONIST IN KNIGHTSBRIDGE

£11,500 + PERKS

The most prestigious firm of lawyers in London is looking for a bright, energetic and motivated individual to join their team. You will be responsible for the production of the company's main publication, working closely with the Production Director. You will be responsible for the production of the company's main publication, working closely with the Production Director.

Susan Beck
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

SENIOR SECRETARY IN DESER

£13,000

This small but busy firm of lawyers is looking for a bright, energetic and motivated individual to join their team. You will be responsible for the production of the company's main publication, working closely with the Production Director. You will be responsible for the production of the company's main publication, working closely with the Production Director.

Susan Beck
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

ARE YOU OVERTAXED ON £16K?

Your client is an International Taxation Specialist. His present Personal Assistant (who had no previous experience) is now handling her own client portfolio and he is seeking a replacement to train in the same way.

In the first instance your role will be that of PA for which you will require numeracy, basic skills of 100/60 and a sound knowledge of Lotus 123 and Multimate.

The modern offices are situated near Bank and the company is expanding. Aged 24+ you will also receive BUPA and 25 days holiday.

Senior Secretaries

Lawrence House, 3-6 Trump Street, London EC3V 8DA

01-606 1611

Recruitment Consultants

SECRETARY TO SENIOR PARTNER'S OFFICE

Age 22 - 24 £13,000 - £16,000

Secretary to Senior Partner's Office of leading firm of Accountants, providing day-to-day secretarial services to members of his office and to assist his Personal Secretary in providing him with full co-ordinated support.

The successful applicant must be well presented, articulate and with the ability to deal with people at all levels; have a good standard of education, be quick thinking, able to use own initiative and capable of working under pressure. Shorthand 80 wpm, fast accurate audio and copy skills.

Phone us a.s.a.p. for an appointment.

Senior Secretaries

Lawrence House, 3-6 Trump Street, London EC3V 8DA

01-606 1611

Recruitment Consultants

CHARTER GROUP

ASSISTANT RECEPTIONIST

Salary c. £13,000

Hours of work 8.00 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.
Charter Pico is a young and successful property design and development company located in Park Lane.

We are seeking a first class Assistant Receptionist to help organise our reception area. Duties will include operating a Monarch switchboard, greeting clients, arranging refreshments and some copy typing.

You should be well spoken and very well presented with a friendly personality and the confidence to deal with people at all levels.

To apply please send your CV to:
The Personnel Officer, Charter Pico
98 Park Lane, London W1Y 3TA
Telephone 01-355 1000
(Strictly No Agencies)

ADVERTISING

£20,000

The advertising world is highly competitive these days where only the most forward thinking and professional will survive. The Managing Director of a leading Agency needs the back-up of a PA with experience in the industry to play a vital part in the expansion plans for the 1990's. A good educational background is essential as well as good fast typing and shorthand.

Age 28-35. Skills 100-60.

01-629 9323

DIRECTORS' SECRETARIES

PERSONNEL

£17,000

Communications and PR play a vital role in any company's performance so do the people in it. The Business Manager of a large Group needs a PA who is based on administration who has some experience of personnel and the ability to work effectively in a fast moving and ever-changing environment.

Age 28-35. Skills 100-60.

01-629 9323

TRAINING - £14,500

SHD SECRETARY

EXCELLENT PROSPECTS

There are loads of opportunities to get into training working for the Head of this large Training Centre close to Holborn tube. This international company prize themselves by the way they train their staff and the excellent promotional prospects. A good educational background is essential as well as good fast typing and shorthand.

For further details call Vivian Roche on 01 494 4020 or fax CV on 01 494 1899.

WORKFLOW

RECRUITMENT

SECRETARY/PA

New small TV news company requires responsible, personable, energetic, well-structured in an urban office of the office. Good WP skills & telephone skills essential. Outgoing & approachable. Experience useful, to £12,000.

Applications (A5P) to: Institute TV News Service, 40 Bowling Green Lane, London, EC1R 0NE.

WP/AUDIO SECRETARY

NR BAKER ST-TUNE

SALARY £14,500

To join small, friendly office in specialist Leisure Property Agents. Accounts WP and pleasant telephone manner required.

Miss John Rose on 01-494 1899.

No agencies please.

MEDICAL BIAS?

£214500 + BI-annual Bonus + Free Travel + BUPA

Shorthand secretary required for Clinical Research Manager and his team in a Hamersmith based Japanese Pharmaceutical Research Centre.

The secretary required must have excellent skills, 100wpm shorthand and fast accurate typing. APPLE MAC experience would be an advantage. Must have excellent command of written and spoken English along with neat appearance and calm disposition. Computer literacy would be most advantageous.

This post would suit a young, self-motivated person with the ability to prioritise work efficiently and effectively.

Please call Alice Becker on 287 2044

Middleton Jeffers

RECRUITMENT LIMITED

PUBLISHING PA/SEC

£14,000

Barrow, versatile and creative person is sought for an interesting role with a successful publishing house. Assisting the Sales and Marketing Director with all aspects of administration, you will need a quick mind, good all round secretarial skills (ST and WP) and excellent organisational skills.

Please telephone us to discuss in more detail. Call Julie.

Tel: 01-493 5787

The GROSVENOR

TELEVISION PRODUCTION SECRETARY

£11,000 NEG.

Well established television production company is seeking a wide range of programmes. A wide range of programmes, including a variety of news, current affairs, and entertainment. This is a good opportunity for someone who is keen to learn and has a good understanding of the television industry. We will receive your CV if you have recent skills. (Shorthand and WP) and excellent organisational skills.

Please telephone us to discuss in more detail. Call Julie.

Tel: 01-493 5787

The GROSVENOR

DESIGN SECRETARY

£14,000

A creative secretary (c. 28 to 40) with excellent communication skills who would like to be part of a small, forward thinking, rapidly growing design company. Good ST and WP skills are essential and a good understanding of design and production is an advantage. This is an exciting role for someone who enjoys using their initiative.

Tel: 01-493 5787

The GROSVENOR

Barrow

Fine Arts

£10,000

Interested in a career in the Fine Arts? Look no further. Small Art Library based in W2 needs a PA for their charming Director. Your duties will involve handling all her correspondence and assisting with the running of the office. No experience required, just skills of 45wpm typing. Age: 20-40. Please call Caroline Tuck on 01-437 6032.

HOBSTONES

£12,000+ with EXCELLENT PROSPECTS

Telephone Secretary/PA for busy new company in Health Care. Duties will include greeting clients, answering the phone, and taking messages. A good educational background is essential as well as good fast typing and shorthand.

For further details call Vivian Roche on 01 494 4020 or fax CV on 01 494 1899.

WORKFLOW

RECRUITMENT

PERSONNEL OFFICER

£17,000

W1 company in public sector seek an experienced personnel professional to devise and implement systems and procedures for head office and provincial sites. Experience of training preferred to identify needs and establish various courses. IPM preferred but not essential. Age range 30 min - 50 max. Excellent benefits including 6 weeks holiday.

Call Ray Corcoran for further information C & S Personnel Consultants 01 805 2411

BANKING SECRETARY

TO £13,500 NEG.

Excellent home and other benefits. Young, well motivated Secretary with good educational background required to assist 3 young executives, prestigious Merchant Bank, City. No Shorthand, consistent typing speed of 45 wpm typing/WP. No agencies. Age 21-25, skills 60 wpm typing/WP. Please Usual Miller 01 734 2093 Secretary Associates Best Cost.

Confident,

self-motivated office manager/secretary with fluent French & good WP skills. A good opportunity for someone who is keen to learn and has a good understanding of the office environment. We will receive your CV if you have recent skills. (Shorthand and WP) and excellent organisational skills.

Please telephone us to discuss in more detail. Call Julie.

Tel: 01-493 5787

The GROSVENOR

FAMOUS DESIGNER

£16,000 aas

As PA to the MD, you should be well presented and spoken, exceptionally well organised, a hard worker and enjoy the glamorous and frenetic world of fashion. Retail/Creative experience useful. Skills: -/50. Age: 22-28. HANOVER SQUARE 01-498 1451 ANGELA MORTIMER

£16 - £18,000++ START UP

Well established Paris based company is looking for a PA/Sec who is a confident, energetic, and presentation, a calm and efficient manner, excellent shorthand and an ability to hold the fort intelligently during the frequent absences. Conversational French is required. Age: 22-40. Skills: 60/50. HANOVER SQUARE 01-498 1451 ANGELA MORTIMER

It's a great move for Jaygar!

Jaygar Careers have moved to lovely new offices to provide even more job opportunities and an even better service for our clients. Jaygar Careers are now at: 168 Sloane Street, London SW1X 8DF

01-235 6353 (Permanent). 01-235 9225 (Temporary). (Interior Design). 01-235 9138.

JAYGAR

PA with a View

£14,500

A new position has arisen as PA to the Head of Investment at a large and independent firm of accountants in the City. The PA will be responsible for the production of the company's main publication, working closely with the Production Director. You will be responsible for the production of the company's main publication, working closely with the Production Director.

HOBSTONES

Out & About

£15,000

Meet lots of people if you are looking for a friendly, fun, and interesting job. You will be responsible for the production of the company's main publication, working closely with the Production Director. You will be responsible for the production of the company's main publication, working closely with the Production Director.

HOBSTONES

CHARTLEIGH

Appointments

VICTORIA 01-828-6004

LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

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|---|---|---|
| <p>PERSONNEL ASSISTANT £13,000</p> <p>Outgoing 20-30ish co-operative, good with people with fast typing, admin and WP. You're ideal for this secretarial appointment in Chelsea. Working alongside the Personnel Officer of this vibrant to you will interview, recruit and be in touch with needs of department. Happy, informal office and manner of people to keep you interested. Nice fringe benefits too!</p> <p>JOYCE GUINNESS 01 589 8807</p> | <p>ADMIN/PA £17,000 early review</p> <p>The Group Finance Controller of Wm & Co wants to replace company admin, correspondence and personal duties to a highly competent self-starter 27-45ish. Most importantly to store his financial records. Must have experience of computerised book keeping and ability to deal with spreadsheets, financial, legal and VAT, a very special personality combining flair for people and numbers. IBM Multimate and Lotus 123, superb fringe benefits.</p> <p>JOYCE GUINNESS 01 589 8807</p> | <p>CRÈME DE LA RECEPTION £13,500</p> <p>Experienced, preferably in professional environment with English, French and basic conversational French, this post promises interest and challenge. You'll train on American Systems switch, hours 10.30 - 7pm. Brilliant company benefits and excellent salary review. Get on the line now!</p> <p>JOYCE GUINNESS 01 589 8807</p> |
|---|---|---|

Public Relations - W1 £14,000

Varied responsible role for a top level Secretary/Assistant. Essential pre-requisites are good presentation and excellent telephone manner. Audio Typing - 55 wpm. Suit O/A Levels.

Personnel - City £11,000 + benefits

Definite opportunity for a non-Graduate to get involved in all aspects of Personnel whilst using secretarial skills. Audio/WP essential. Lots of telephone work and client contact. Suit 2nd jobber.

For details please contact Graduate Appointments on 01-629 7262 (Rec. Cons.)

GRADUATE APPOINTMENTS

7 PRINCES STREET LONDON W1

01-584 3222
14 INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAL RECRUITMENT



01-584 3222
14 INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAL RECRUITMENT

SALES ASSISTANTS £18,000

Several of our high profile investment banking clients are looking for dynamic assistants. You will be working for small teams of 3 successful, young executives and the jobs are demanding, involving and exciting. You need to be energetic, good at organising and be able to handle all levels. Fun personality essential. Languages useful. Typing 50 wpm. Age 20-25.

MARKETING AND PROMOTIONS £15,000

Get involved in the promotion and marketing of this prestigious product. As PA to the manager, you will liaise with advertising and PR companies, organise client events, deal with press releases and attend meetings. Experience in financial or corporate PR could be an advantage. Speeds 100/60. Age 25.

Please call us for an interview until 6.00pm. LONDON BRUSSELS

ADVERTISING SECRETARY WITH A DIFFERENCE!

We are a top W1 Advertising Agency, seeking a top Advertising Secretary. Working in a friendly, often frantic Account Group, you will need to have a number of qualities including:

- A terrific sense of humour!
 - The ability to stay calm when the going gets tough!
 - An enthusiastic and flexible approach to work!
- If you possess all these and have excellent organisational skills and accurate typing of 60 wpm we'd certainly like to talk to you.

The environment is lively yet challenging and we offer a salary of c. £11,000 plus overtime.

Contact:

LIZ DAVIES
Sandra & Liz Advertising Ltd
01-636 5960
(No agencies please)

Ambassador £15,000 + Large Package

A tactful and diplomatic secretary will be highly appreciated by the new Sales and Marketing Director of a major financial services company in W1. Acting as his envoy to develop a rapport with internal and external contacts, composing your own correspondence and working unsupervised will make this an involving and interesting position. Skills audio/60 wpm. Age 25-30. Please call Lynne Dawson on 01-437 6632.

HOBSTONES RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

PA/Secretary - Financial Public Relations

City based financial P.R. company requires an organised PA/Secretary. First class secretarial skills are essential. Knowledge of WP and book-keeping preferred. The ability to work on own initiative and under pressure in an open plan office is essential. Applicants must be well presented, have good telephone manner and be aged 30+.

CVs in strictest confidence to:
Maxine Barnes, Trevor Bass Associates Ltd
70/74 City Road, London EC1Y 2BJ.

CUSTOMER LIAISON EXECUTIVE SUSSEX NEAR GATWICK £16,000 + PROFIT SHARE

Charming, friendly and humorous person with a heart of steel required to run a network of grand ladies distributing our exclusive clothing in the UK and abroad. Rapidly expanding, we seek to maintain efficiency without losing our friendliness. The job will expand in other interesting directions and is a wonderful career opportunity to someone who is an excellent organiser, who can work under pressure, who has some computer skills and who can definitely give total commitment.

Telephone Helen Mitchell on (0233) 553381
ROBERT MOWFOLK PLC

MANPOWER WP SECRETARIES

Superb opportunities for shorthand/audio secretaries with experience of:

- Samma Wordplex or
 - Advanced DW4
- Plus free cross training onto most of the major systems, and other benefits including holiday and bank holiday pay.

Please call us today on:

01-486 7865

Temporary and Permanent. Manpower makes the difference.

INSEAD

EUROPEAN INSTITUTE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

seeks

QUALIFIED SECRETARIES (Perfectly bilingual eng/french)

- To work for Professors of different nationalities.
- Able to work under own initiative, organised and flexible.
- Keen to work in a multicultural environment.

Location edge of FONTAINEBLEAU forest - 60 km south of Paris.

Please send your C.V., photo and indicate desired salary to: Personnel Department, INSEAD - bd de Constance 77305 FONTAINEBLEAU, FRANCE

Start Now W1 to £18,000

The pursuit of excellence is the hallmark behind the prominent world of international executive search, professionalism being a key requirement for success.

Our clients, leaders in their field, need an intelligent PA for their Senior Consultant. Tasks include writing reports, co-ordinating client and candidate requirements and providing a fast, accurate typing back-up. Excellent educational background, at least to A Level, and good audio/WP/shorthand skills required. Age 25-35.

Please telephone Elizabeth Wood on 01-454 4512.

Crone Corkill

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

MOVE UP TO BOARD LEVEL SENIOR PA £20,000

A highly renowned Insurance Brokerage based in the city, now has an outstanding opportunity for an experienced and energetic individual.

As Senior Secretary/PA, you will be a high profile and wide ranging role, providing sound secretarial and administrative support. You will also be organising business meetings, client visits and entertainment, so it's essential that you'll have social poise, be proactive as well as being an effective organiser. Educated to at least A level standard, you'll have excellent secretarial skills together with proven experience gained at senior level. The ability to work on your own initiative and in a team is vital, as is your self assurance and sense of humour.

In return for your professionalism and commitment you'll enjoy a first class salary and benefits package, plus all the scope you need to develop.

City Office
01-726 8491
ANGELA MORTIMER
Executive Recruitment Consultants

MOVES INTO BANKING £12-14k + benefits (to £20k package)

Reap the rewards (including mortgage subsidy) of a career with some of London's most prestigious international banks. A variety of opportunities exist for bright personalities with good SH or Audio skills - and several positions for bilingual secretaries.

Interested? Call Jane Kiehl today on 01 408 0424

70-71 NEW BOND STREET W1Y 9DE 01-408 0424

PUBLISHING! £12,000 + BONUS

International publishing house with an excellent reputation seeking an outgoing enthusiastic secretary to work for their advertising director plus his team. This is a very exciting opportunity offering a good mix of secretarial/administrator plus excellent career prospects. Skills required 60/50. Call Jane Shawmore on 01-631 1541.

PR ASSISTANT UP TO £9,500

Become totally involved with this small successful PR consultancy. You will liaise with clients & the press, organise events as well as the editorial and administrative back up. If you can work on your own initiative, and have a good education then this could well lead to an account handling role. Call Julie Oley on 01-631 1541.

BERKELEY APPOINTMENTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS
PARAMOUNT HOUSE 104-106
OXFORD STREET LONDON W1A 1PS

Marketing Assistant

A unique opportunity

To be the first person appointed as the marketing assistant to one of the senior partners at a leading law firm, a dynamic practice going from strength to strength in the City of London.

A unique person

With social, organisational, planning and follow through skills with keyboard literacy make this a high profile job within and outside the company. Getting on with people at all levels is important. You may already have some limited marketing experience.

Unique responsibilities

Covering all aspects of successful marketing: The service to clients, conferences and seminars. Publicity, press and public relations, advertising and marketing both in house and through external sources.

Your salary is negotiable according to your age and experience. Please send your CV and a brief covering letter explaining why you should be selected for this unique appointment to: Dawn Allen.

SUSAN McHUGH ASSOCIATES

ADVERTISING AND MARKETING CONSULTANTS.
48 MARGARET STREET, LONDON W1N 7FD.

PA/SECRETARY TO CHIEF EXECUTIVE

A successful property company, with attractive offices in their award winning shopping development at Lion & Lamb Yard, Farnham seeks an experienced PA/Secretary to work with the Chief Executive.

Applicants for this interesting and demanding position will be highly motivated with a high standard of education and excellent secretarial, organisational and administrative skills. Experience at board level is essential as is the ability to work on own initiative.

Salary around £17,500 p.a. with benefits and first class working conditions in delightful Surrey market town.

Please reply in writing enclosing your CV with a brief covering letter to:

A N Sturt,
Arundell House Plc
12 Lion & Lamb Yard
Farnham, Surrey GU9 7LL

SENIOR SECRETARY

Based in Potters Bar, Herts

Excellent Salary Package

Full time vacancy

Do you have what it takes to work with a busy dynamic team?

- Good Communication Skills
- Sound Secretarial Experience including Word Processing
- Excellent Organisational Abilities
- A flexible approach with a friendly personality

Interested in a Human Resources Consultancy specialising in training, recruitment and development for Sales and Sales Management Personnel.

Your duties will be to assist five consultants in all areas of their work and to supervise one member of staff. Full training on our existing office systems is available.

If you are interested in finding out more please Abby Roberts on 0707 5161 (office hours) or 01 441 2811 (evenings or weekends). Or send your Curriculum Vitae to: Interact, 82a High Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5AB. Fax 0707 52412.

NEWS INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPERS LIMITED

THE TIMES NEWS OF THE WORLD
THE SUN THE SUNDAY TIMES

SECRETARIES SALARY RANGE £11,825 - £13,975 (depending on grade) Age - 20 upwards

News International, which publishes the five leading National newspapers in this country, have opportunities for secretaries in work in Editorial and Commercial Departments.

In addition to excellent secretarial skills (100wpm shorthand, 60 wpm typing and WP experience) successful applicants should have the ability to work under pressure, and have a sense of humour.

An excellent benefits package is offered which includes six weeks holiday and BUPA.

Applicants should apply in writing only enclosing a CV to:

Brenda Hemmings
Recruitment Manager
News International Newspapers Limited
PO Box 481
Virginia Street
London E1 9BD

SECRETARY

We are looking for an experienced secretary to join our successful and expanding team dealing with City Offices. Shorthand not essential, although fast and accurate typing are a must. Salary £15,000

Please send C.V. to Penny Bazell.

RECEPTIONIST/TELEPHONIST

An experienced, well presented, receptionist/telephonist with slow accurate typing is required for busy firm of Chartered Surveyors. We are looking for someone who likes to be kept occupied and enjoys a varied workload. Salary £13,000

Please send C.V. to Gaynor Carruthers.

Richard Saunders & Partners
27-32 Old Jewry
London EC2R 8EQ
NO AGENCIES

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY £16,000

Young, Main Board Director of a well-known City Stockbrokers, requires a top notch PA to work alongside him. Duties include: setting up new office systems, client liaison, lots of travel arrangements and general admin.

You need to be very efficient and flexible and possess excellent secretarial skills. It is a pressurized environment and deadlines have to be met, so the ability to think and act quickly is essential. Excellent benefits.

Call 01 - 283 0789.

CROSS SELECTION

VSO are an independent charity seeking men and women to share their skills with the people of the Third World. We currently have four vacancies in Kenya, all of which require excellent secretarial skills. Good organizational and administrative skills are also important.

PA TO DIRECTOR & DEPUTY DIRECTOR

The successful candidate will be responsible for providing administrative and secretarial support including organising and preparing internal and external meetings, research, liaising with correspondence and preparing day-to-day reports for the Director and Deputy Director.

PA TO DIRECTOR, OPERATIONS DIVISION

The successful candidate will be responsible for providing support to the Director, Operations Division as well as the Head of the Training Department and VSO's Medical Section. An interest in information technology and computer systems would be useful in this post.

PA TO DIRECTOR, UK DIVISION

The postholder will provide support to the Director, UK Division. VSO's UK Division is responsible for the organization's publicity, fundraising and public education work in the UK.

ASSISTANT TO THE EVALUATION MANAGER & COMPANY SECRETARY

The postholder will be responsible for providing support in two specific areas of work in the Director's Office. Firstly, assisting the Evaluation Manager in relating forward projects connected to our evaluation programme and secondly, working with VSO's Deputy Director, assisting in the co-ordination of the Company Secretarial work.

These are exciting and responsible positions for people keen to work at an administrative level supporting our work overseas. Starting salary for all these posts is £10,500 to £11,500 inclusive of London weighting. VSO offer a contributory pension scheme and 25 days leave a year. For more information on these posts, an application form and a job description please send a SAE to:

Personnel Department
VSO
317 Putney Bridge Road
SW15 2PN
or phone:
01-780 1361 (ext 101)

Closing date for the receipt of written applications - Friday 20th April 1990.

VSO

VSO needs motivated women to share their skills with the people of the Third World.

MACKAY for Secretaries

OPEN TUESDAYS UNTIL 7PM

Executive Secretary Luxembourg

A large international investment company based in Luxembourg requires a top quality secretary to work at Director level.

This senior position, which will include some supervisory functions, would suit an experienced secretary in the mid to late twenties age range. A flexible attitude and an ability to work under pressure within a small team are required, good shorthand/typing skills and whilst not essential, a working knowledge of either French or German would be an advantage.

An attractive employment package is offered in a pleasant working environment. Interviews will be held in London.

For a personal interview call Glynis Ranger 01-491 0383
70-71 New Bond Street, W1 (Oxford St. end)
Our Fax No for CVs is 01-408 2555

Professional PA c. £20,000 package

The Deputy Chief Executive of the investment arm of a well established merchant bank is looking for a Senior PA. Tact, discretion and efficiency are key words as you use your excellent communication and organisational skills to liaise with senior staff and clients, organise an extremely busy diary and help prepare confidential papers.

Preference will be given to well presented candidates, aged 25-35 with Director-level experience. A few, skills of 100/60 wpm and the ability to keep one step ahead. This position offers full banking benefits including an immediate mortgage subsidy.

Please telephone Nicky Wheaton on 01-588 3535.

Crone Corkill

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Network Manager To £20,000

This expanding PR Consultancy is currently partially networked on Wordperfect 5 and is looking for an experienced computer enthusiast to provide support, training and advice to all its current network users and to cross-train the remainder by the end of the year.

You will be a confident ambitious person, able to get on with people at all levels and have previous w.p. training experience, preferably on Wordperfect 5. Educated at least to 'A' level, you will also have worked as a secretary and be willing to undertake a minimal amount of secretarial work for the company secretary. Age: 25-35 Skills: 60 typing.

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The MAC Group (UK) Limited

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COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

By Christopher Warman
Property Correspondent

Strength in the City

The latest survey of office letting in the Square Mile and its fringes in February reports a 'surprisingly healthy' market

The level of letting of office space in the City of London and its fringes shows a "basic strength" is being maintained, although it is supported by a softening of rents and by incentives, according to a survey by Richard Saunders & Partners.

The findings of the survey, to the end of February, which the firm describes as "surprisingly healthy", show the February take-up in the City totalled 307,755 sq ft, more than 60 per cent higher than in January but 15.5 per cent less than the monthly average from September 1989 to February.

February lettings included 1 Aldermanbury Square, in which 65,628 sq ft were let to Standard Chartered Bank, following the sale of its Bishopsgate headquarters, at a rent of nearly £60 a sq ft. At Broadgate, the 34,168 sq ft of Exchange House are under offer, it is believed to Foreign & Colonial, at an asking rent of about £45. At 1 King Street, 19,000 sq ft have been let to Barclays Bank at about

£50 after refurbishment. The rest is available at £52.50-£60.

The firm says January's low take-up is a recurring phenomenon, borne out by the February improvement. Although below the six-month average, the February level compares well with most 1989 monthly figures. It says: "An encouraging aspect is that the increase has not depended upon single large lettings but is made up of smaller lettings of new and second-hand space." This illustrated the basic market strength.

Availability of City space in February, at 8,053,912 sq ft, was 2 per cent higher than in January and nearly 7 per cent above the September-February average. Richard Saunders & Partners says the increase was lower than av-

erage but nevertheless continued the upward trend. Availability has increased by about a million square feet since last October.

On the City fringes the February take-up was 427,295 sq ft, 30 per cent higher than in January and 11 per cent above the September-February average. It included the letting of Citykeys, Middlesex Street - 41,450 sq ft at £38.50 - and Jono Court, Prescott Street, in which the 41,450 sq ft new development owned by Nationwide Anglia Building Society was under offer at £39.50.

Activity in February was spread throughout all fringe areas and, as with the City, no single large lettings were recorded. The take-up level was one of the higher monthly totals of the past six

months. "The total of the City and fringe monthly figures is surprisingly healthy in view of the gloomy sentiments popularly put forward," the firm says. "The increase in availability, fuelled by the increase in supply, continues to cause concern and is stifling rental growth that may otherwise be there at these take-up levels."

Availability in the fringe areas, at 9,723,338 sq ft, was nearly 3 per cent up on January and nearly 7 per cent above the September-February average. The monthly increase of 300,000 sq ft was slightly less than what has been expected in the past year, and the total of new additions included several freehold refurbishments, which in the recent past would probably have been developed.

The survey says: "Once again there were no large chunks of new space placed on the market, and we have observed a tailing-off in the number of planning applications being made, the expected reaction of developers with the current state of oversupply."

IN THE MARKET

Drexel collapse empties building

The collapse of the Drexel Burnham Lambert securities house has left Winglaw Securities, the owner-developer of 1 Aile Street, Aldgate, east London, looking for tenants to occupy this headquarters building. Six floors of the seven-storey building, completed two years ago, are available at £40 a sq ft through Richard Main & Co, Stock Exchange, Goldsmith and Debenhams, Trowson & Chinnocks.

Joey Eslandi, Winglaw's chief executive, says its collapse-free floors of up to 20,000 sq ft will appeal to both financial services companies and the banking and financial sectors.

Shortly after completing a block of flats in Putney, south-west London, Naim has opened its first large commercial development, at Upper Richmond Road, also in Putney. Following the trend for the decentralization of commercial properties, the company has built an eight-storey building of 25,000 sq ft, of which 19,500 sq ft are lettable, to "West End" specialists.

Lambert Smith Hampton is the agent for the building, which has a completed value of about £7 million.

Associated British Ports has bought the lease of Town Quay, Southampton, from the receivers of the Dunning Group for about £15 million. ABP, which already owns the freehold of Town Quay, has been in discussion with the receivers since the Dunning Group ran into financial difficulties before Christmas. The acquisition allows ABP to take advantage of its common ownership of the whole area from Ocean Village to Royal Pier and to integrate all its waterfront development schemes, which cover more than 130 acres.

Happy landings at the old aircraft works

THE OWNERS of the former aircraft works at Brooklands, Weybridge, Surrey, intend to submit proposals for the final area of development on the site in the next few weeks following last week's High Court decision clearing the way for it.

The High Court confirmed that a planning consent, granted in 1950, was still valid, and Trafalgar

House Brooklands and British Aerospace say they will now continue their discussions with Elmbridge District Council and Surrey County Council on proposals for the 120-acre central runway area.

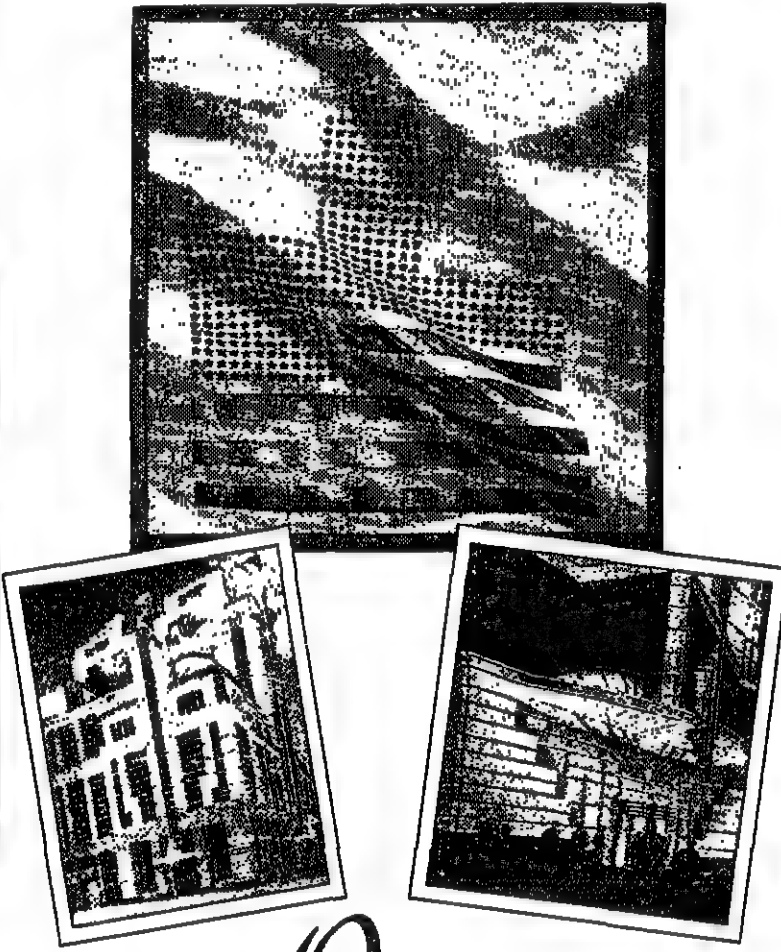
David Brown, managing director of Trafalgar House Brooklands, said he was confident that the proposals would help bring to

life some of the local authorities' hopes for Brooklands, including the preservation of the best of the Brooklands heritage.

The new layout strategy for the central area is likely to include leisure facilities, a hotel, business space and many acres of parkland beside the river Wey, which could be open to the public for the first time. The central area represents

roughly a third of the 340-acre site. Earlier this year consent was granted for The Heights, a 750,000 sq ft business park, plus 25 acres of housing on the 75-acre eastern sector. This will soon be joined by a food superstore and a DIY outlet on the south-western sector, helping to make what the owners claim will be Britain's premier business community.

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ANTIQUES & COLLECTABLES

by Huon Mallalieu

Action on the auction front

Country house sales are one of the most likely sites for a true bargain — but a lot of enthusiasm and energy is required

For the auction-taster, a country house contents sale is always an irresistible draw, even though the prices will almost certainly range from the ridiculous to the outrageous.

At a country house sale, the scope for the auctioneer's wiles is even greater than usual. He or she can play off the various elements of the public against each other. For instance, a higher price than warranted can be obtained for an undistinguished lot of prints by making up the lot with a seeming lack of logic. Put in an Old Master or two to attract the professional trade from London; add some standard but decorative hunting prints for the county set; and top up with local subjects and views of the house for souvenir-hunting friends and neighbours and the local dealers. Thus the auctioneer can provoke a profitable tussle between four differing tastes and interests which might not normally compete.

All sorts of factors, including the weather, the setting, the feeling that one cannot go home empty-handed after making one journey to view and another to bid, and the provision and quality of the refreshments, can prompt irresistible bids even from staid professionals. Yet remarkable bargains are still to be found.

The high season for contents sales is during the marquee months of warm weather, in particular in September and early October when less is happening in London. However, death and the Revenue wait for no man, and the spring also produces its crop of contents sales. This month, the first is on Friday, held by Nationwide-Anglia of Wotton-under-Edge (0453 844733) with some of the contents of Tormarton Court, the home of the Glegg family near Badminton. Later, there is almost a clash between Christie's South Kensington, in action at one of the greatest Yorkshire houses, and Sotheby's Sussex selling a less well-known house in Hampshire.

Most of the famous Chippendale furniture at Nostell Priory, near Wakefield, passed to the National Trust in a deal against death duties in 1986, and remains in the house. The purpose of the sale on April 30, and May 1 of peripheral items accumulated by the Winn family over the last 300 years is to raise £500,000 or so to set up a trust for the preservation of the house and the remaining contents. Nothing is being removed from either the public rooms or the private apartments of the present Lord St Oswald; nonetheless, the sale will include 300 lots of furniture.

The bulk of the furniture is 19th



The drawing room of Wetherwell Priory. More than 300 lots of good furniture will be on sale

century. There are also some earlier oak pieces, such as a handsome part-17th century walnut arm chair (estimate £1,000 to £1,500), and at least two notable 18th century items. One is a plain oak chest, which seems to be by Chippendale, and which should surely make more than the estimated £3,000, the other a painted mahogany Pembroke table decorated by Antonio Zucchi.

Many of the lots at Nostell were acquired by the first Lord St Oswald, or his son; some of those at Wetherwell Priory, near Andover,

Hampshire, where the Sotheby sale will be held on May 2, were perhaps collected at much the same time by Sir Ernest Cassel, one of Edward VII's banking favourites. He acquired the house for his niece, Mrs Jenkins, in 1913, and it passed to her daughter, Marjorie, Countess of Brecknock. Here, too, there are more than 300 lots of good English and Continental furniture from the mid-17th to the early 20th centuries. Much is hoped of a pair of mid-18th-century Canose kingwood commodes with an

estimate of up to £50,000. A set of 16 George III mahogany shield-back chairs is expected to make up to £15,000. There are also many lesser items of furniture, together with works of art, textiles, objects of vertu, pictures, porcelain, clocks, glass and silver. The range of taste is catholic, from a set of four George III silver table candlesticks, made by John Scofield in about 1796 (£4,000-£5,000), to a Daum green glass vase (£2,000-£3,000).

Huon Mallalieu is editor of the quarterly *Watercolours & Drawings*.

WHAT TO SEE, WHERE TO BUY

SELECTED events, Today — May 2. Auctions start at 11am, unless otherwise stated:
To April 20: Exhibition of stock. Helm Gallery, 59 Jermyn Street, London SW1 (01-493 0688). To April 28: Exhibition of paintings by Peplow. The Scottish Gallery, Cork Street, W1 (01-287 2121). Tomorrow: Picture sale. Bonhams, Montpelier Street, SW7 (01-584 9161). Tomorrow, 2pm: Russian avant-garde sale. Christie's, King Street, St James's, SW1 (01-839 9080). Tomorrow, noon: Romanov documents. Sotheby's, New Bond Street, W1 (01-493 8080). Tomorrow, 5pm: Hammond Collection of contemporary ceramics. Bonhams, Montpelier Street, SW7 (01-584 9161). Friday, 10.30am: Furniture sale. Heathcote Bell, Commercial Street, Northampton (0604 22735). April 6: Map sale. Sotheby's Sussex (0403 783938). April 11, 10.30am: Sale carpets, works of art and icons. Christie's South Kensington, Old Brompton Road, SW7 (01-581 7611). April 11, 12 noon: Die-cast toy sale. Phillips West Two, Selwyn Road, W2 (01-229 9090). April 11-14: Norfolk Easter Antiques Fair, St Andrew's Hall, Norwich (09867 2368). April 12, 10.30am: Ceramics, silver and works of art sale. Hampton/Messinger May Baversstock, High Street, Godalming, Surrey (04868 23567). April 12, 10.30am: Sculpture sale. Sotheby's, New Bond Street, April 12-16: Stowe School Antiques Fair, Buckinghamshire (01-550 5433). April 13: Sales of dolls and Oriental ceramics. Phillips, George Street, Edinburgh (031 225 2266). April 13-14:

Easter Antiques Fair, Spread Eagle Hotel and Town Hall, Thame, Buckinghamshire (084421 3661). April 18-22: Newcastle-upon-Tyne Antiques Fair, Holiday Inn, Newcastle (01-550 5435). April 19, 10am: Sale of jewels and silver. Beames, Rainbow, Torquay (0803 256277). April 19-22: Antiques Fair, Castle of Bracken Hotel, Powys (0273 423355). April 19-May 5: Exhibition, British Impressionism, David Messum, 34 George Street, W1 (01-408 0234). April 19-May 13: Exhibition of Chinese textiles. The Ground Floor Suite, 34 Brook Street, W1 (01-408 0177). April 20, 10.30am: Clocks, watches and barometers. Christie's South Kensington. April 23: Water-colour sale. Phillips, New Bond Street, W1. April 23-May 18: Annual English water-colour show. Spink, King Street, St James's, SW1 (01-830 7888). April 24, 2pm: Oriental costumes. Christie's South Kensington. April 25, 10.30am and 2.30pm: Islamic arts sale. Sotheby's, Bond Street. April 25-May 31: William Walcott exhibition at The Building Centre, 26 Store Street, WC1 (01-637 1022). April 26: Picture sale. Lawrence, Crewkerne, Somerset (0480 73041). April 26-28: Cheltenham Spring Antiques Fair, Pixville Pump Room (0242 513485). April 30-May 1: Surplus contents sale. Christie's at Nostell Priory, Wakefield, West Yorkshire. (01-581 7611). May 2, 10am & 2pm: Contents sale by Sotheby's Sussex at Wetherwell Priory, Andover, Hampshire. May 2-6: Westminster Antiques Fair, Old Horticultural Hall, Vincent Square, SW1 (04447 2514).



Oak chair, Nostell

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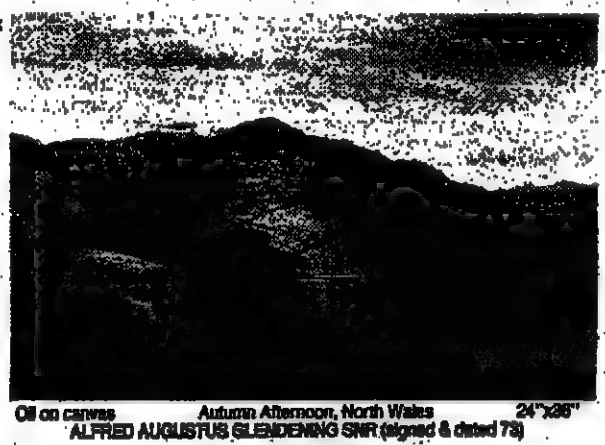
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Donovan Rose can excel once more on favourite track

By Mandarin
(Michael Phillips)

JACK Berry, the highly successful Cockerham trainer, can sustain his good start to the season by landing a double at Hamilton today with Donovan Rose (4.45) and Donovan Rose (5.15).

Following that promising first run of the year at Newcastle on Thursday, when he was beaten 1½ lengths by the faster and more fancied Doncaster, Donovan Rose is now expected to win the Home In On Hamilton Handicap in the hands of Kevin Darby, who knows him so well.

As five of his eight victories so far have been gained on the Scottish course, Donovan Rose is clearly biased at ease on this undulating track. With the ground riding heavy, the ability to last six furlongs without flinching will be of paramount importance. By so nearly beating the useful three-year-old Superio over seven furlongs at Doncaster last September, Donovan Rose provided ample evidence to support the view that he will be up to the task.

On a point of handicapping, he should again account for the Newcastle third, Nordic Brave. He will now be meeting him on 3lb better terms, having finished three lengths in front of him six days ago.

Beyond Our Reach, who

young Newmarket trainer would doubtless have expected her to open her account before now.

Her other form at Nottingham, Ascot and Newcastle is still far and away superior to that boasted by her eight rivals and she is unlikely to disappoint her trainer again.

Order Paper, who relishes a battle in soft ground, is taken to record his third victory on the track by capturing the Strathclyde Park Apprentice Handicap at the expense of Greenhills Pride, a rival of old, and One For The Pot.

Order Paper, who has been running well over hurdles this winter, should only have to perform as well as he did against Uran at Ayr last September to give Luca Cumani's promising young apprentice, David Dunnachie, another winning ride.

Over the jumps at Huntingdon, Forest March (2.0) and Major Kiffart (4.30) can give Toby Baiding a first and last run double.

However, stable companion Farnham Boy, three times a course winner, has been most disappointing this season and is unlikely to cope with the much more consistent Stream Bridge in the Steeple Gidding Handicap Chase.

After seeing Love Returned finish second to the subsequent Queen Mary, Lowther and Chevalier Park Stakes winner, Dead Certain, at Salisbury last spring, her talented

Binkered first time

HAMILTON PARK: 4.45 Silver Patrol, 4.45 Silver Patrol.

Bishops Yarn doubtful for National after fall

BISHOPS Yarn may be forced to miss Saturday's Grand National after falling on Toby Baiding's Kington gallops yesterday morning. The 11-year-old sustained pulled muscles in the fall.

"It's a shame it couldn't come at a worse time," explained Jonathan Geake, Baiding's assistant trainer. "He slipped, lost his footing and fell on his hindquarters."

Bishops Yarn, Baiding's hope of a third National, was last night responding to electrical treatment. "He's a lot brighter in himself this evening," continued Geake. "But the big problem will be how he stiffness up overnight."

Order National news yesterday confirmed Arthur Moore, who has given Tom Taffie, his stable jockey, a free hand as to what he will ride in Saturday's big race.

Last season, Geake partnered the former Irish-trained Monmore two seasons ago to finish third behind Rhyne "N" Reason, who decided tomorrow whether he renounces his association with Monmore or rides Thinking Cup for Monmore.

"Tom has the option to ride

My horse if he wants to,"

explained Moore. "But I'm not sure if he will get a run as two horses need to come out."

"I will send him over with my other runners and just hope he gets in," continued the Co. Kildare trainer. "If we don't get a run he will go for the Scottish National on April 21."

The ride on the Moped Tinker, trained Monmore only because available on Monday evening following the Ludlow fall of his intended partner, Gee Arnyage.

John McCormack, the first season trainer, will definitely be disappointed if Bishops Yarn has suffered from "any problems," explained McCormack. "But now I am very pleased with him and he did a nice bit of work on Sunday."

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"Tom has the option to ride

SIS considering legal action against Curley

By Phil McLennan

SATELLITE Information Services (SIS) is seriously considering taking legal action against Barney Curley over comments he made in the wake of Ardrin's victory at Taunton on Thursday.

Terry Ellis, SIS's director of racing, said yesterday: "We've conducted discussions internally and are now taking external advice on the matter. We want to clear our name."

Curley was highly critical of betting shows relayed by SIS to betting shops and used the late withdrawal of Ardrin from a race at Ascot on Saturday as a platform to air his views.

The trainer was fined £1,000 by the stewards and has declined to appeal although the Jockey Club had still not received confirmation of his appeal yesterday.

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Curley was highly critical of betting shows relayed by SIS to betting shops and used the late withdrawal

Europe's No. 1 takes cherished place among the select field for the Masters at Augusta

Rafferty fighting first-timer's nerves

From Mitchell Platts
Golf Correspondent
Augusta, Georgia

RONAN Rafferty conveys the image of being the brash young man who can swagger on to the first tee anywhere in the world. It will not be so when he tees up for the 54th Masters at Augusta National tomorrow.

"I'll be as nervous as a kitten," Rafferty said. "My hands will be shaking as I peg up the ball; my stomach will be churning. It was like that when I first played in the Open Championship in 1980 and it was like that in the Walker Cup in 1981. I cherish those moments like I'm going to cherish tomorrow."

Rafferty is one of seven European golfers in the Masters field but the only one not to have previously played at Augusta.

"I've sat at home for 15 years watching the Masters, so when the invitation arrived through the post it was a very special moment," Rafferty said. "I honestly thought it was a Christmas card when I was opening it. The invitation is being framed and it will hang forever on the wall."

"People keep asking me what it is like to be playing in the Masters. I cannot answer that yet. But I am one of 80-odd players here and I have my badge which I will treasure for all my life. I consider it an achievement to have been invited here; it is now up to me to make the most of the opportunity."

Rafferty has, since turning professional in 1982, brought a "have clubs will travel" philosophy to the European Tour and he was rewarded in 1989 for his endeavours. He won three times, including the Volvo Masters, and he finished No. 1 in the Volvo Order of Merit.

"I did a lot in 1989 by winning for the first time in Europe," Rafferty said. "But I am now back to square one. I am playing a different level of tournaments this year, like all the four major championships, and I'll be playing in America, Australia, Japan and Europe."

"I could have sat back after 1989 and decided that I had made it by being No. 1 in Europe. I have not. I now need, like Seve Ballesteros and Nick Faldo, to travel and play all the way to the top, like them, I can make all the mistakes and learn."

"It is like being here at the Masters. If I don't learn how

to play, or to cope with, the course then I will not be able to say that I have used the experience to the best of my ability. I hope by playing here that it will be easier next week to play in the Cannes Open than it was last year."

Rafferty is attempting to win sufficient prize money — he estimates that it will require \$120,000 — to become a member of the US Tour in 1991. "I've played in the last two events out here but I've only won loose change," Rafferty said. "To tell the truth, I'm not playing well. I'm not as slim as I would like and that has not helped. I started playing well two years ago when I went on a fit-for-life diet. I got down from 16 stone to 13st 3lbs. I'm now back to 14st 8lbs and that is too heavy."

"My swing is quite short and it suffers because I tend to put the weight on in my upper body. I didn't play so much in the winter, taking time out for the first time in my life, and I'm rusty. It shows. At Bay Hill last week I was hitting five irons and eight irons into the lake from good lies."

"I consider that, too, part of the learning experience. I was just a name in the programme that week but I played. And I want to win enough money to have the chance to play as many times as I want over here next year."

"I am doing the Pro-Celebrity event with Sam Torrance for Channel 4 this year but I consider that to be the right kind of exposure. I can also fit it into my schedule. I think it's strange that Seve Ballesteros says he can't play 15 tournaments in the US because he's tired, when he has 21 contracts worldwide with each one of them wanting a bit of him."

Rafferty is not one to camouflage his opinions. He has settled on a policy, after conversations with both Curtis Strange and Ben Crenshaw, of caution for this week. "I've heard from Curtis and Ben about the Masters disasters," Rafferty said. "If it needs your absolute best shot to hit the green then it is not worth going for it. A six is better than a seven; a five better than a six. I must not get carried away by the thought of pulling off some great shot."

It is a studious outlook, which is why Rafferty's challenge should not be underestimated — even if Fuzzy Zoeller is the only player to have won the Masters at the first attempt.



Beware the night of Europe: Lyle pulls a face as Olazabal tries to take away his driver during practice for the Masters. Ballesteros looks on

Cut out for a green jacket

From Mitchell Platts, Golf Correspondent, Augusta, Georgia

WHEN last seen on British television, Fred Couples had the look of a condemned man. He had capitulated to Christy O'Connor Jun at the last hole in the Ryder Cup and conceded the point which ultimately denied the United States victory.

O'Connor applied the pressure with a perfect two-iron; Couples, until then in the driving seat, contrived to miss the green with a nine-iron. It was a catastrophic blow at a crucial time and not one on which to base the view that Couples could be the next Masters champion.

Couples digested the disappointment. "These things happen," he said. "You have to realize that, as in tournaments, there are times when fortune swings against you. You can be in the lead the whole week, then, next thing you know, Greg Norman is 10 under par and two ahead of you."

"You think, 'How does that happen?' But it does. There is no point dwelling on the matter. You can't do anything about it because it's over." Couples, however, is the first to agree that, before his victory in the Los Angeles Open in February, he was gaining a reputation for snatching defeat from the jaws of victory. He had won before on the United States Tour, including The Players Championship, although not since 1987.

"If I hadn't won in LA it would have been tough on me," Couples said. "Everyone would have been saying, 'You did it again, you did it again.' It's true: every time I was near the lead something seemed to happen."

"I can't say that the tag that I couldn't win hadn't bothered me because it had. It was tough to take. Then again I may have won only four tournaments but I don't consider myself a loser."

Tom Watson agrees. "Watch out for Freddie," he said. "He's only 30 years old, he's still learning to play and he only needs a few more wins under his belt to become a hard player to beat."

A man with an easy-going demeanour, who rarely displays his emotions on and off the course, Couples has been accused of being less than consumed by the game.

"I'll tell you one thing about Fred Couples," Paul Azinger said. "He's quietly competitive. It seems like he's aloof but he's a grinder. He's loaded with talent. It's incredible, some of the shots he hits. I'm amazed by his length, considering the calmness of his swing."

There is no violent action to the swing. Mark Calcavecchia and Norman swung violently. Fred's swing is as smooth as silk and the ball goes a mile.

Ballesteros sets out to lay his Augusta bogey

SEVERIANO Ballesteros will be satisfied with nothing less than victory in the 54th Masters which begins at Augusta National tomorrow (Mitchell Platts writes).

The Spaniard, winner in 1980 and 1983, has suffered in recent years. He was two shots adrift of Nick Faldo's winning total 12 months ago, beaten in a play-off in 1987, drenched out by the water at the 15th in 1986, and edged out by Bernhard Langer in 1985.

"I've been walking away from this place time and time again with tears streaming from my eyes," Ballesteros, three times the Open champion, said.

"They were tears of frustration and disappointment and also rage. This year I'll be crying tears again, but this time they will be tears of joy. I am convinced I am going to win the tournament. I still can't believe, looking back, the bad luck I've had at Augusta since 1983. So the time has come for me to change all that and make my own luck. And I can do that."

"By my reckoning I should by

now have won at least six Masters. I say here and now, but by the time I finish my career I will have won more than that."

Ballesteros is clearly determined to overthrow Jack Nicklaus's record of six Masters wins. He accepts that to equal Nicklaus's haul of 18 big championships is virtually out of the question. But at Augusta his record is better than any other player in terms of strokes average.

Officials of the Masters Golf Tournament said that law enforcement officials discovered counterfeit tickets were being sold for this year's championship.

Tickets to the Masters, the first of golf's four annual major events, are considered among the most difficult to obtain of any top sports event.

The Augusta National Golf Club, permanent home of the Masters, said in a statement that several arrests had been made in connection with the counterfeit tickets, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation had been called in to investigate.

BOWLS

Robertson achieves a singles double

By David Rhys Jones

WHEN Graham Robertson, a 32-year-old civil servant from Tranent in East Lothian, beat Jeff McMullan, of Ireland, at Prestwick yesterday, he became only the third man to win the British singles championship indoors and out. Only the two Davids, Bryant and Cortell, had previously achieved the double.

Robertson was never troubled by McMullan in the final, leading 6-0, 11-2 and 17-5 before leaving the green at 21-7. More surprising, perhaps, was his 21-12 eclipse of England's Andy Thomson in the morning's semi-final.

Thomson, who had beaten Bryant and Allcock to win the England title last month, and had skipped his Cyphers team to the British fours championship on Monday, seemed ill at ease, as if he were pining for the company of his Scottish colleagues.

Maybe, as the pundits suggested, he had burnt himself out in the team event, but more probably it was the unsuitability of his woods that discomfited him. Although he was too polite to complain, he found the rink tricky, and would have been better served by bowls that took a straighter path to the jack.

Robertson, dominating the game, led throughout, and looked every inch the champion. His deliberate approach and studied delivery helped him achieve a consistently high level of performance. Not the most exciting pair, his success is based on solid application; he does the simple things exceedingly well.

Ireland won the pairs, Wales the triples, so, with England's success in the fours, the four senior individual titles were equitably shared between the home countries.

Jim Baker skipped Marcus Craig to the pairs title, quelling a strong challenge from Martin and Mick Tomlin, a father and son combination from Boston.

Robert Price, a former Welsh singles champion on grass, skipped Adrian Rigby and David Mogford to a handsome 27-16 victory over Wales's Llanarthne team in the triples final. The Welsh performance was full of spirit, with Price bubbling his way to the title.

In the CIS home international indoor series, which starts today, illness has forced Brian Stille out of the Scottish team and Martin Jenkins out of the Welsh team. Stille is replaced by Jim Boyle of West Lothian, Jenkins by Jim Hoskins of Ogwr (Bridgend).

RESULTS: Pairs: England: G Robertson (Scott) & J McMullan (Ire) 21-7; Wales: M Craig & M Tomlin 17-12; Scotland: J Stille & J Boyle 17-12; Ireland: A Rigby & D Mogford 27-16. Triples: G Robertson (Scott) & J McMullan (Ire) 21-7; Wales: M Craig & M Tomlin 17-12; Scotland: J Stille & J Boyle 17-12; Ireland: A Rigby & D Mogford 27-16.

SPORT ON TELEVISION

Channel 4 brings on the Belles

By Richard Evans
Media Editor

LIVERPOOL, the holders, are out of the FA Cup final. The new favourites for the title are Doncaster Belles who must beat St Helens in order to reach the final for the seventh time in the last eight years.

Freston Rangers and the Friends of Fulham, last year's runners-up, will contest the other semi-final with both games being played at Millwall on the same day. The final will be staged at Derby rather than Wembley — and all matches will be televised... by Channel 4.

Channel 4 screened extended highlights of the women's FA Cup Final for the first time last year, when the underdogs, Leawood Pacific, from Merseyside, beat Friends of Fulham 3-2 in a cracking final — and the

audience figures staggered even the most sober and subdued television executives at the company's Charlotte Street headquarters.

Two and a half million viewers tuned in, a sizeable audience by Channel 4 standards and a third of the number who usually watch the men's brand of the game on BBC or ITV. Enthusiasm by the response, Channel 4 announced yesterday it is planning four programmes involving women's football. As well as following the teams from the quarter-finals to the final of the women's FA Cup, they will include highlights of the UEFA cup qualifiers between England and Belgium and introduce some of the personalities and history of women's football in Britain.

Liz Forgan, the director of programmes, said: "I was amazed by the substantial viewing figures last year and we realized there was clearly a lot of interest."

And in case women who play

between Britain and Italy and England and Wales, Channel 4, which has a remit to cover minority interests, has also decided to cover the World Cup football finals in Italy this summer, where Italy are favourites but the defending champions are... Switzerland.

The sixth world championships of the table football game, Subbuteo, are being staged in Rome a week before the real World Cup, with 26 nations sending senior and junior "teams".

Subbuteo has an estimated five million players around the globe and most of the countries represented in Rome have sides in the proper World Cup. Each "team" consists of one player, who controls the destiny of his 11 plastic players.

Rob Brown, spokesman for Subbuteo, said yesterday: "The game is loved by the substantial viewing figures last year and we realized there was clearly a lot of interest."

And in case women who play

HOCKEY

London to challenge the holders

By Sydney Friskin

LONDON'S new-look side moved gracefully into the semi-finals of the British Universities Sports Federation tournament at Peffermill sports ground, Edinburgh, yesterday accompanied by the holders, UAU I.

The four de France will again feature prominently on Channel 4, which will also continue its coverage of city centre cycle racing. Pro-bicycle football will be the focus of Rio de Janeiro may appeal to viewers with more aesthetic tastes, while Australian rules football, the rugby and Gaelic football by rugby makes a return to the screen.

Channel 4's highly acclaimed racing team will again be in action at all the classics.

YACHTING

New Zealand ketches open up lead over Rothmans

By Barry Pickhall

THE New Zealand ketches, Steinelager 2 and Fisher and Paykel, were running neck and neck last night as they closed to within 1,000 miles of the Fort Lauderdale finish of the fifth stage of the Whitbread Round the World Race.

Overnight, the two Bruce Farr designs, broad reaching under spinnakers at more than 11 knots, opened up a 54-mile lead over Lawrie Smith's British entry, Rothmans, their most persistent challenger.

The leaders have passed Barbados and are racing past the northern group of the Leeward Islands towards the island of Barbuda before heading for the Bahamas and the finish off Florida.

Pierre Fehlmann's Swiss sloop, Mela, which is placed second to Steinelager on elapsed time, but running in fourth place on this 5,500-mile stage from Uruguay, has closed on Rothmans, reducing the British sloop's lead to 26 miles.

All four yachts are within the north-east trades and, though American forecasters predict strong south-easterly winds within the next two days, the chances of a big upset in this running order look slim, especially as the course presents few opportunities for alternative tactics.

Saigoote British Defender, the joint Services entry, skippered by Colin Watkins, also looks comfortable back in fifth place, though the greater reaching power of the Swedish ketch, The Card, must be cause for concern. Yesterday The Card took 14 miles out of Ludde Ingvall's Finnish sloop, UBF Finland, and 25 out of Saigoote, reducing the British yacht's lead to 46 miles.

A thousand miles astern, the Doldrums may catch out some of the smaller yachts, though yesterday's satellite sweep showed no slackening in speed. Patrick Tabary's L'Esprit de Liberte continues to lead the

division three fleet, 22 miles ahead of Bruno Dubois's Belgian entry, Rucanor Sport, while Klaus von Bremen, skippered by Peter Weidner, of West Germany, is retaining her hold on third place more than 200 miles astern with Tracy Edwards's Maiden following, at least 16 miles behind.

LEADING POSITIONS (compiled at 18.00 GMT on April 3, 1990): Whitbread Round the World Race (Stage 5, Fort Lauderdale to Barbuda): 1. Steinelager 2 (NZ), 1,238 miles; 2. Fisher and Paykel (NZ), 1,238 miles; 3. Rothmans (GB), 1,238 miles; 4. UAU I (USA), 1,238 miles; 5. Saigoote British Defender (GB), 1,238 miles; 6. The Card (SWE), 1,238 miles; 7. UBF Finland (FIN), 1,238 miles; 8. UBF Finland (FIN), 1,238 miles; 9. UBF Finland (FIN), 1,238 miles; 10. UBF Finland (FIN), 1,238 miles; 11. UBF Finland (FIN), 1,238 miles; 12. UBF Finland (FIN), 1,238 miles; 13. UBF Finland (FIN), 1,238 miles; 14. UBF Finland (FIN), 1,238 miles; 15. UBF Finland (FIN), 1,238 miles; 16. UBF Finland (FIN), 1,238 miles; 17. UBF Finland (FIN), 1,238 miles; 18. UBF Finland (FIN), 1,238 miles; 19. UBF Finland (FIN), 1,238 miles; 20. UBF Finland (FIN), 1,238 miles; 21. UBF Finland (FIN), 1,238 miles; 22. UBF Finland (FIN), 1,238 miles; 23. UBF Finland (FIN), 1,238 miles; 24. UBF Finland (FIN), 1,238 miles; 25. 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WEDNESDAY APRIL 4 1990

SPORT

Shadow boxing for the main event

Bridgetown

AS THE tension continues to gather here, with an island-wide expectation of a truly titanic Test match starting on Thursday, we were treated to a day of cricket that felt bewilderingly unreal.

For a start, it was a game that nobody much wanted to play. The big stakes match is dominating the minds of all the players: one more piddling little one-dayer was not even important enough to rate as a distraction. England had already lost two official and one unofficial one-dayers, two more have been washed out. This last was a dead match.

It was a game of shadows, played by men morally absent from the proceedings, and as befits such an occasion, the



Simon Barnes

players who dominated the game were not actually playing in it at all.

Devon Malcolm, England's strike bowler, has been given the full cricket wool treatment as if he were a kind of Living National Treasure. An enormous amount depends on him in the big match: no sense at all in risking him in this match. In American football training sessions, no one, no one at all ever throws a ball to a quarterback: those million-dollar hands must not be

exposed to the slightest suspicion of a risk. Malcolm has been given something of the same cossetting, and he has expanded to fill the role allotted.

Angus Fraser, Malcolm's foil, also missed the match, nursing strained muscles. This could be a crucial injury: the state of Fraser's intercostals was more relevant to all the players in the match than anything they were actually doing themselves.

But the men who loomed largest over the occasion were the two absent captains: the two moody, brooding, forbidding and grumpy bearded men who have been at the centre of this series. Neither Graham Gooch nor Vivian Richards was playing: a mere detail like

that did not prevent them from dominating the proceedings.

Richards slouched into town yesterday, and swagged about the ground during pre-match practice. As ever he carried his chin slightly higher than his nose. It seems the cruellest sort of cosmic joke: that a man who sets such store on his own dignity should suffer from the low comedy complaint of pities.

He has, he says, completely recovered from the latest bout which caused him to miss the last Test. He is altogether too cool to play in this spurious match: but he will boss things as ever in the Test match.

There is a whiff of suspicion in English hearts that this may be more advantageous to

them than to West Indies. No one dare say this out loud: the man's record makes him a man to inspire fear in any man that ever bowled: but still the whisper is there: that Richards has 'gone'.

He plays no major innings these days: instead he gives us cocky cameos. He bats six in the order: not the position of a responsible — or a fully confident — frontline batsman. "Vivian Richards is 38," he said, speaking of himself, as his wicket in the third game. "I will give those in form the chance to come high in the order."

His eye is no longer quite what it was. Again and again, he gets out to that arrogant legside wipe across the line: the hubristic flick, in fact.

Now he finds himself one down in the series. "The West Indies hate to find themselves in such a position," he said. They have had little enough practice.

Now Richards prepares himself for a decisive tilt at the strangely effective team that Gooch has built in his own image. But Gooch, absent from this match, will also miss the Test with his broken hand.

The man has performed wonders both as player and as leader. Will the team work with Gooch able only to scowl from behind the pavilion rails? That was the main issue of yesterday's cricket at the Kensington Oval. The match of shadows distracted nobody from this question.

England's Smiths are blessed by varying fortunes

From Alan Lee
Cricket Correspondent
Bridgetown
Barbados

ROBIN Smith reacted to a new level of responsibility with his most positive innings of the tour as England's limited overs programme ended at Kensington Oval yesterday. Smith, who becomes a senior player of increased importance now that Graham Gooch is discounted by injury, struck a violent 69 after England had been put in to bat in the final one-day international.

Watched by his parents, who are here on holiday, and his brother Chris, on tour with Hampshire, Smith left behind a sorry sequence of three innings for only eight runs.

The acting captain, Allan Lamb, responded with 55 not out at a run a minute and England, aided by some undisciplined West Indian outcrickey, totalled 214 for three in a match restricted to 38 overs per side.

But any encouragement they felt was deflated by yet another hand injury. David Smith on his first tour appearance needed a hospital X-ray on a damaged thumb.

The Caribbean climate continued its sickly mood of this tour and rain fell from a slate grey sky for two hours after breakfast. An anxiety to start, at least on behalf of the umpires, resulted in the captains being sent out to toss in steady drizzle. It turned into a downpour in time to abort the exercise and, after much shut-

ting of covers, a start was possible at 11am.

With 85 minutes lost, 22 overs should logically have been subtracted from the quota but the official decision was that it would now be a 45 overs match, instead of 50 — futile in its optimism since neither side was likely to bowl that figure in the three hours allowed.

All this doubtless reflected worthy intentions towards a capacity crowd of 12,000, roughly 25 per cent of which were on holiday from England. It is the largest band of cricket supporters ever to travel overseas and the desire for further group to have its own in for 14 overs and 57 minutes for five runs when he dragged a short ball from Moseley into his off stump and departed to clean up the blood now dripping from his wound.

One Smith gave way to another and Robin was instantly more belligerent. He needed some luck early on but as Moseley lost his line, Smith prospered, the savage square cut being eagerly restored to his menu after some deprived weeks.

After nine overs batting he overtook Larkins by hitting two successive fours off Walsh but the Jamaican's suffering seemed to have ended in his next over when Smith topped a cut to Richardson on the cover boundary. Umpire Barker, at square leg, however, had already signalled no-ball, presumably for too many fielders outside the circle.

Smith reached his 50 off 71 balls and with Lamb as jaunty partners the England score rattled along. The third wicket had produced 63 runs in eight overs when Smith was run out but the last five overs added a further 52, with Hussain confirming his good form of the weekend.

the next week may not pass off entirely without incident.

The match itself was one neither side approached with evident enthusiasm. The series is already decided, neglecting injuries demand protection and a crucial Test is only 48 hours distant. It would scarcely be stretching a point to conclude both teams were more anxious to avoid further injuries than they were about the result.

David Smith, however, was one man much in need of the match, his first since September other than an appearance for a club side on Monday, when he scored 54 not out. He looked in surprisingly good touch, his back foot technique solidly untroubled by some wayward early bowling.

The West Indies, indeed, made absolutely sure that the revised overs requirement would not be met by delivering a liberal number of no balls and wides.

Moseley, very much the local hero, added to the grief he has already caused England by hitting David Smith on the chin with his first ball. Not a man to be deterred by such trifles, Smith barely flinched, but neither did he make much further progress. He had been in for 14 overs and 57 minutes for five runs when he dragged a short ball from Moseley into his off stump and departed to clean up the blood now dripping from his wound.

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Leg glance: David Smith plays a ball from Ambrose in his stay of 14 overs for five runs

Nicholas malaria confirmed

From Alan Lee

MARK Nicholas, who arrived in Barbados on Saturday direct from leading England's A team cricketers to victory in Zimbabwe, was yesterday confirmed as a malaria victim.

Nicholas was rushed to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Bridgetown on Sunday night, suffering from fever, and is now on a drip support and an intensive course of treatment for the tropical disease.

The 32-year-old Hampshire

captain is here with his county on a pre-season tour but there is now no prospect of him playing any active part and he is likely to miss the start of the English season.

"The doctors tell me that if this treatment works they could have it under control within a few days," Nicholas said yesterday. "The way I feel at the moment, I would say there is not much chance of that. It is something I would not wish on anyone."

It is uncertain whether Nicholas contracted the disease in Zimbabwe, or on a pre-Christmas trip to Thailand, but his priority now is to fly back to London as soon as his condition permits.

In Nicholas's absence, the second team captain, Tim Tremlett, has taken charge of the Hampshire tour. They play their second game of the trip today, with David Gower scheduled to make his debut.

Macari and Hillier lose their appeals

LOU Macari, the former manager of West Ham United and Swindon Town, yesterday lost his appeal against his conviction by the Football Association for breaking the regulation concerning betting on matches.

Brian Hillier, the Swindon chairman, suspended from participating in football for six months at the original hearing, similarly lost his appeal. The Swindon club, fined £7,500, withdrew their appeal yesterday through a solicitor on the grounds of expense.

After a 4½-hour hearing at a London hotel, Bert Millichip, the chairman of the FA, who headed the three-man appeal commission, said that submissions had been heard on behalf of Macari, who had been fined £1,000, Hillier and Swindon. The appeal commission would announce any variance in the original penalties within the next week. Full reasons for their decisions would be given.

Hillier and Swindon were legally represented. Macari, who was later smuggled away after the hearing by hotel security staff to avoid waiting reporters, conducted his own case, although Millichip said, he was helped by the two lawyers.

No new evidence or witnesses were called and the solicitors listed five grounds for their appeals. They argued: the original hearing was unconstitutional; against the rules of the FA; the penalties were wrong; the commission should not have reached their verdicts on the evidence; and it was not a fair hearing.

Geoff Thompson, the chairman of the FA's disciplinary committee and chairman of the original hearing, outlined the reasons for the verdicts to

the appeal commission. Millichip said: "We were satisfied with the reasons given. We were happy with the original decisions."

He said the matter would be concluded when the penalties were announced next week as there was no further appeals procedure and he doubted if Macari and Hillier had the right to go to a higher court of law. "I have no doubts they were disappointed," Millichip said. "But they did not show it."

He said that there was no reference during the appeal to the bet having been made as an insurance against Swindon's expenses when they visited Newcastle United in an FA Cup tie in January 1988, a game they lost 5-0. Millichip said he chaired the appeal as the case was a matter of importance. "Betting on a club losing a game on the face of it is a very serious offence," he said. "This has not done the image of football any good."

Questioned about betting at football grounds, Millichip confessed he was unaware that bookmakers were allowed to operate at some League grounds.

The appeal stemmed from a hearing which heard that a bet of £6,500 was placed at odds of 8-13 on Swindon losing at Newcastle. The bet realized £4,000.

Macari and Hillier were both charged in January under the FA rule which prohibits players and officials betting on any match other than with authorized registered football pools.

Macari, who left Swindon last summer to join West Ham, resigned on February 19, several days after the original hearing.

Fencing will finally go at Hillsborough

By John Goodbody

THE perimeter fencing at Sheffield Wednesday's Hillsborough ground is to be taken down at the end of the season.

The decision by Sheffield City Council has been made just before the first anniversary of the Hillsborough disaster, in which 96 spectators died at the FA Cup semi-final on April 15 between Liverpool and Nottingham Forest.

The council has responded to Lord Justice Taylor's report, which recommended the removal of barriers because, in emergencies, they can stop spectators from reaching the safety of the playing area. Fences at Bramall Lane, Sheffield United's ground, will also be removed.

The council has been holding talks with the clubs, the police and safety experts to decide how to handle matches in future. Those clubs that have retained perimeter fencing

ing have wanted to ensure that spectators would not invade the pitch.

At Hillsborough, the Kop end will be affected as well as the Leppings Lane stand, where the disaster occurred. The terraces at that end are still closed and their long-term future has yet to be decided.

David Capper, the Sheffield United secretary, said: "By pulling the fencing down, I hope we can get back to the old friendly atmosphere at football matches but much is going to depend on the behaviour of the supporters and I would appeal to them to make sure that the fencing is down for all time."

Rita Nettleship, the Sheffield Wednesday Supporters' Club secretary, welcomed the decision, saying: "I hope it will prove the right one and it is now up to everyone to make sure that they do not go back again."

Brazil wait on Romario

RIO de Janeiro (AP) — Sebastiao Lazaroni, the coach of Brazil's national football team, has confirmed he will select the injured forward, Romario, in his World Cup squad.

On his return from Europe, Lazaroni announced he will pick 23 players for the World Cup on April 16, instead of the 22 originally planned. The extra berth will go to a forward in case Romario, who has a broken leg, fails to recover in time.

"Romario is very important

to the team and is worth every effort," Lazaroni said. "He will be on the list of 23, and we will wait for his recovery as long as the regulations permit."

Romario plays for PSV Eindhoven in The Netherlands. He broke his leg in a league game in March and, after he hurt it again last week, doctors implanted a metal screw to set the bone.

The screw and plaster cast are to be removed in early May — barely a month before Brazil play Sweden in a group C fixture in Turin.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Australians warned off

CANBERRA (Reuters) — The Australian Davis Cup trio of Wally Masur, Darren Cahill and John Fitzgerald, have been urged by their Foreign Minister, Gareth Evans, to withdraw from a doubles exhibition in Johannesburg.

Evans said: "I urged them to reconsider their decision to play in South Africa because it undermines the efforts by all Commonwealth countries to maintain sporting isolation of South Africa until fundamental changes occurred in the apartheid system."

Graf returns

STEFFI Graf, the world No. 1, will play her first competitive tennis for two months, following a hand injury, when the Bausch and Lomb championships begin at Amelia Island, Florida, on Monday.



Herold seeking a visa

Herold hoping

JENS-Peter Herold, East Germany's Olympic 1500 metre bronze medal winner, is seeking a visa to take part in the General Portfolio 5000 metre road race in Newcastle on April 18. Herold would be the first East German to take part in the annual quayside race.

Planning ahead

THE French National Olympic and Sports Committee have put forward proposals for a new 80,000-seat stadium in the Bois de Vincennes, on the outskirts of the capital, as part of their challenge to host the 1998 World Cup finals. The stadium, which will be suitable for football, rugby and athletics events, is likely to cost about Fr1 billion (£100m).

Marsh mystery

Chicago (AP) — Henry Marsh, who has represented the USA four times in the Olympic steeplechase, has been suspended for two years by the Athletic Congress (TAC), the US athletics federation, after failing to report for a drug test. Marsh, 36, claims business commitments made it impossible for him to report for the test in December. He had tested negative only two months earlier.

Demonstrators ready to disrupt tennis tour

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — Anti-apartheid demonstrators will give 12 world-ranked tennis players, expected in South Africa for a three-week series of doubles matches, a rough ride, the National Sports Congress (NSC) gave warning yesterday.

The NSC general secretary, Krish Naidoo, who spearheaded demonstrations against the unofficial team of England cricketers, captained by Mike Gatting, earlier this year, vowed to bring the South African Tennis Union-organized tour to a halt.

"We'll definitely be protesting, though at this stage we've still to decide what form the protests will take. We may occupy the tennis court itself," Naidoo said.

The visiting players are Robert Seguso, Marty Davis, Rick Leach, Robert van T

IOC will not object to one Germany

THE International Olympic Committee will not stop East and West Germany sending one team to the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona if that is what they want, the IOC president, Juan Antonio Samaranch, said yesterday.

"We believe that is a decision for the Germans — a sports decision and a political decision," Samaranch said in Barcelona after two days of talks with local organizers.

Samaranch has publicly expressed doubts whether Barcelona would be ready in time but the president of the organizing committee, Pasqual Maragall, said that the war of words was over and a new era of trust had begun. It is still uncertain whether equestrian events can be held in Barcelona after an outbreak of African horse plague.

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